

Voter's Guide 2025-2026

DASG Internal Officer Elections
Student Rights Officer, Equity & Diversity Officer
05/14/2025

Student Rights Officer

Ellie Isaeva (She/Her/Hers) DASG Student Rights Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to gain leadership skills, socialize with people that have same interests as I do, find friends and contribute to college together. I think It will be an interesting and very teaching experience to me if I'll be part of the club as an internal officer. I have always wanted to become DASG officer, it's my second year in De Anza. I major in CS and I will graduate in Spring 26. I have attended few program committee meetings during Winter 24 but then the class schedule and the meetings time were conflicting so I could not attend the meetings last year. So this year I decided to run for elections, become part of the club and do my best as an internal officer.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

I have communication skills that I want to use as an officer of Student Rights committee. I work in the Basic Needs Center here in De Anza and not that many students know about Basic Needs department so I hope I will be helpful and resourceful to students. I have been working there over a year now so I have experience needed in communicating with people, understanding them. So I think it is a useful skill for a Student Rights officer.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I am taking classes and I also work in the Basic Needs Center (Resource Hub & Food Pantry) But I work on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 2 hours each day, so my scheduled is pretty flexible

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

none

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

I think everything's as it's supposed to be, DASG is doing good

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I decided to join DASG to become part of the group of people that contribute their time, make effort to elevate the college life, which is my goal

7. Program Affiliations: International Student Programs (ISP)

Chan Myae Naing (He/Him)

DASG Student Rights Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

As an international student from Myanmar/Burma, I strongly believe in human rights and equity. Not only is it an important aspect of life but it also significantly improves an individual's quality of life if implemented correctly. I hope to make De Anza College a better and more positive environment where growth and justice are encouraged. Safety is also a priority at De Anza College and I want to refine it.

1. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

Back in Myanmar, I have done volunteering and charity work for my local community. After arriving in the US, I also volunteered at several Burmese and International events where I accommodate people. As a young and active student, I promise to bring lots of skills and personal experience. Some of the skills include organizational skills, strong work ethic, time management skills, and strong teamwork.

2. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I have school work, extracurricular activities, and volunteering work. However, I have enough to balance my professional and personal lives. I will focus only on my DASG role during my work hours and important college events.

3. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

none

4. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

I feel like security at De Anza College can be improved to promote safe and comfortable lives.

5. Why I Joined the DASG

DASG is a great place to learn more about college and internal affairs. It's one of the best ways to become more connected and directly involved with the De Anza College community. That's why I joined the DASG. I want to make De Anza College a safe place where everyone can enjoy their limited time together.

6. Program Affiliations: International Student Programs (ISP)

Salvador Pedroza (He/Him)

DASG Student Rights Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

I believe the experience that I can bring would be very valuable and useful for DASG. I have a deep dedication and commitment to government and my community due to my personal and ethnic background. I have a deep personal tie to social justice, and it has been a constant thing that I am working on in the background, so I would love to bring it more to the forefront. I would also thoroughly enjoy the work that I do because it aligns very closely with my major.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

I have and currently am interning for the DASG Administration Committee. I also work frequently with the SSRS program and a student, assisting and helping students with whatever they need for this program. The work I do there I feel frequently aligns with what I would be doing as Student Rights Officer.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I have a job off campus that I can go to with very flexible hours, I am on campus frequently to assist with SSRS in any case, so staying for DASG would not be much of an issue at all.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

I went for student elections, and even though I did not win, I still feel like this is the best way for me to help people in a way that I am good at, so that is what I want to and plan to do.

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

I recently feel that it should be easier for students to bring up concerns in any respect towards the Senate. A public comment section is useful, but it could sometimes get very easy to lose something important that should be addressed in a vast number of public comments. I also feel like the diversity seats that we have available would definitely be something that we should look into filling. Our campus is full of many different ethnic groups in backgrounds that should also be represented in our student government.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I like helping people in any way that I can, and I feel like the best way for me to do that is by being involved in our school's governing body. Community building comes from the willingness of people to work together, and I have that willingness because I want to have change for the better.

7. Program Affiliations: First Year Experience (FYE)

Equity & Diversity Officer

Christina Asegedom (She/Her/Hers) DASG Equity & Diversity Officer



- 1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?**

I would like to become a DASG Equity and Diversity officer because I want to help student voices be heard, ensure equality and fairness exists in every aspect and I want to see a community where people from all diversities feel welcome and encouraged to succeed. As an equity and diversity officer I want to make sure people who need additional support get it. What I hope to achieve is making a positive impact and making sure every voice is heard.

- 2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?**

The skills and experiences I will bring is my organizational and leadership skills.

- 3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?**

Other commitments I have are succeeding in my classes, volunteering in my community and helping out in my family. I will manage my time by using a personalized schedule to make sure all my tasks are complete and nothing is left behind.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

I have always wanted to help underrepresented people and be a voice to the voiceless. I believe that to ensure equality exists providing equal opportunities is not enough. Underrepresented people need special support and help to use their provided opportunities. If I get elected, I will work on providing additional support and help to people from different backgrounds.

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

I believe that DASG should provide students with more financial aid and scholarship options to pay for tuition and books. I also believe that DASG should also work on providing research opportunities. There should also be academic competitions with rewards.

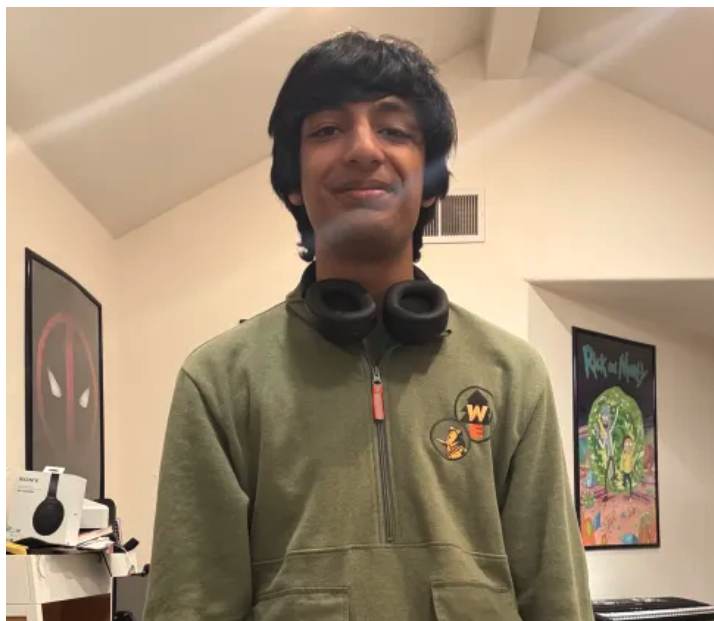
6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG to be a part of a community that works to help students succeed and to connect with different students from different backgrounds.

7. Program Affiliations: None

Om Bathija (He/Him/His)

DASG Equity & Diversity Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become a Equity and Diversity Officer because I have always wanted to help the underprivileged and underrepresented people have a voice. I believe it is a great injustice to the notion of "equality" that even one person does not feel heard or represented or seen. I hope to have conversations with underrepresented groups at De Anza and put practices in place so that groups can feel like they are just as important to our school's environment as anyone else. Along with this, I would love to host events for open communication of all communities I hope to also make sure that nobody, regardless of their race, creed, religion, gender, or sexual orientation feels discomfort or fear of sharing their opinions and suggestions. In terms of equity, I believe that the school's equity is still an ongoing issue that needs to be amended, and I hope to have conversations with not just students but departments as well to reach a point of transparent equity.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

Some experience I would bring to my position as a DASG Equity and Diversity Officer and the DASG Senate as a whole would be my experience as a Vice President of Mock Trial club. This position includes setting up events for our club, doing outreach/working with other clubs for collaborations, as well as working to market said events and collaborations. Along with this, the role also includes a overview of our finances and spending. Most importantly, our club is extremely collaborative within, and has led me to have a lot of conversations with different groups of people to try and make everyone feel represented in terms of the roles and work assigned for our tournaments. Discussing with all of these people and giving them all a fair representation in our club is a skill I hope I can bring with me to my role as a DASG Equity and Diversity Officer. More experience that I would bring with me is my time as a member of the De Anza Omega Leo Club. As a member of the Omega Leo Club I served senior citizens dinner and waited tables at a fundraiser, and one of the

attendees was having an issue with accommodations for their food, and wanted their crab to be cold. I got to talk with the event leader, who heard me out and I was able to get the cold crab that my table needed.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I am currently the Vice President of Mock Trial club, and the ICC Rep/Incoming President of Debate Society. Another commitment is that I work part-time at Chipotle. However, I will still be able to manage my time and take my responsibilities as a Equity and Diversity officer very seriously. My part-time job's schedule can always be accommodated and changed depending on when I am needed, and my officer responsibilities can be delegated if needed. I will still take these positions seriously, but I can plan accordingly so all of my duties will accommodate my position as an officer.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

I'm very passionate about encouraging diversity and equity within our school's community, and I look forward to raising awareness about these topics in the upcoming election.

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

A concern I feel the DASG should address is the level of accessibility for international students. International students make up a large percentage of our school population, yet a lot of classes, events, and even elections don't seem to be international-friendly, or even ESL-friendly. International students who's first language isn't English may not know who to vote for, what classes to take, or how to participate in important clubs or workshops and events like Club Day. In regards to this, I also feel that the level of bureaucracy is extremely hard for anyone who speaks any less than intermediate fluent English to understand. There are thousands of ways to transfer and figure out your college plan, but the pathways and websites are simply not easy to understand or accessible for international students. De Anza gives students accommodations and help through the International Student Programs, but because of low funding and high demand, their efforts can fall short. This, combined with the general campus community appealing primarily to domestic students puts international students at a disadvantage.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined the DASG to give back, and make our community as equal as possible and help our student group in any way I can. I am really passionate about politics and helping others through activism, providing accessibility, etc. and I hope to achieve that at DASG.

7. Program Affiliations: Clubs, Inter Club Council (ICC)

Dali Guerrero Fernandez (She/Her)

DASG Equity & Diversity Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become the DASG Equity and Diversity Officer because I strive for social justice on a daily basis. On my own time, I work with organizations like The Silicon Valley Immigration Committee, SIREN, and CHIRLA to make an impact in my community. I would love to translate these skills and experiences over to the role of DASG Equity and Diversity Officer! I want to achieve a multitude of goals. Most importantly I want to make sure that every single student on De Anza's campus feels seen, safe and represented. I want to use this role to create a space where students can come together en comunidad, or in community. Another one of my goals is to be a voice for my community. I want students to know that they have someone on their side that is not only listening to their concerns, but fighting for them each and every day!

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

My whole life I have dedicated myself to creating a more just and equitable world. In high school, I worked with The Mercury News to shed light on issues that the immigrant community was facing. Whether it was reporting on DACA rulings or the flea market closure that was displacing dozens of vendors, I was there. I also have worked with the City of San Jose City Council, District 5, office for the past 4 years and have gained experiences on advocacy, policy, and outreach. Apart from that, my experiences as a FGLI undocumented student bring a new and refreshing perspective to DASG!

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I manage my time extremely well. The only other commitments I have would be my job which is early mornings, and admin meetings which run from 2-3pm and do not interfere with the schedule. My other commitments also do not interfere with DASG meeting times.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

N/A

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

One of the major concerns that DASG should address is ensuring that our undocumented community is safe. With everything going on in the world and under our current administration, our undocumented and immigrant community is the most vulnerable at the moment. We need to prioritize their safety and ensure that they have the proper resources and tools to thrive and most importantly feel safe on campus. I believe that no student should fear coming to school, yet sadly it is our current reality.

8. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG because I did not see myself and my community represented throughout student government. I think one of the very first things I noticed about DASG was the lack of diversity within Senate. I want to change this because I believe that every student should feel seen and represented in places of leadership because representation truly matters. As a Latina, first generation, low income and undocumented student, I bring so many identities and new perspectives that DASG would benefit from.

9. Program Affiliations: Clubs, De Anza Student Government (DASG) Senate and/or Committee(s), HEFAS (Higher Education for AB 540 Students), Mentors at De Anza

Nen Li Garcia (He/Him)

DASG Equity & Diversity Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

Growing up, I always felt like the odd one out. As a Hispanic kid in an 85% Asian school, it was difficult to fit in, and for many years I felt like my voice wasn't heard and it was very isolating. Eventually, I was able to break free from this through the activities that I got involved in. I joined sports teams, math competitions, and student associations at my high school. It was the communities that I fostered there that began to help me open up and feel supported and heard. Community college can be pretty isolating, and I want to help as many people as possible find community and resources as soon as they step on campus. This applies especially to underrepresented groups, whether it be by ethnicity, disabilities, mental health struggles, or any other cause. In short, I want to make De Anza a more equitable environment. I specifically want to bring more minority groups into student organizations like clubs, ICC, and DASG. Later, I will address specific actions that I believe we could take in order to achieve the goals outlined above.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

I have a lot of experience specifically with equity and providing support to groups in need. As an intern and then treasurer for Active Minds, I helped make posts and come up with event ideas like therapy dogs, yoga, and llamas. (yes, we will be having llamas on campus, and you should totally come if you have time:) I focused on making all our posts and flyers inclusive, and helped our team organize workshops and guest speaker events. We brought in mental health speakers to speak about mental health in underrepresented groups, neurodiversity, and other very relevant topics for community college students.

As a member of the Santa Clara County Office of Education, I helped Lead team of 12 to create

integrated stigma reducing mental wellness centers at middle schools in my county, and develop a zoom "hotline" to assist youth in need or distress. We helped increase student engagement with school psychologists by 26% in just a few months.

Miguel Li Garcia

Additionally, I have experience with dedication and perseverance, which I think are very useful for an important role such as senator. Since I couldn't find a job in 2023, I started an e-commerce business and worked tirelessly to secure funding, develop a product, advertise it, and bring it to market. My business started off unsuccessfully, and it was very discouraging for me to see that cash I had worked so hard to obtain being spent. But I didn't give up, and constantly found new ways to contribute to the business - it eventually paid off. I ended up becoming profitable, and it was a great experience for me to learn to be committed and stick to what I'm doing when I truly believe in it.

I have great communication skills. As a multicultural student, I have interacted with people of very diverse backgrounds from an early age, and I understand the nuances of communication in different cultures (more than just language).

Lastly, I have a lot of marketing experience, having helped with posts and reels for Active Minds. If needed, I can help with any marketing tasks! I will attach an example of something that I did below.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

I don't have many commitments, since I've completed all of my required coursework and will only be taking part-time classes. I am committed to dedicating over 20 hours a week just for DASG.

I am currently the Active Minds treasurer, and will continue to be a part of the organization. We currently have meetings once a week on Sundays evenings, but each quarter we fill out a when2meet to make sure to pick a time that fits everyone's schedules.

I will make sure to pick a time that doesn't conflict with my DASG responsibilities, and will prioritize DASG events and meetings.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

I understand I'm new to DASG unlike many of the current interns that will be applying. I originally planned to transfer this year, however due to financial reasons I will be staying until next summer.

I have been interested in joining DASG since last year, but I didn't think it would be possible as I was planning on transferring. I'm thrilled for the opportunity to be a part of such a meaningful organization, and I am excited to apply all of the experience I have gained through Active minds and through my off-campus involvements in order to help the Student Rights & Equity committee, and DASG as a whole

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

As a whole, I think there is a lack of involvement in college activities outside of a smaller subset of students. From the personal experiences that I have had speaking with students in classes, I have noticed that many either don't know much about DASG or clubs, or feel that it isn't for them. I believe this is due to a lack of information, and a lack of representation. I also think that

it's important for us to understand the thoughts of everyone on campus. As an SRE officer, here are some of the following ideas that I have:

- A qr code with an anonymous form to "Campus Climate surveys" at events like club day, where people can complete a survey to get a simple prize like a sticker or goodie bag
- Add questions like "Have you experienced or witnessed discrimination at De Anza?" , "How well do you feel represented in campus leadership?" , "What changes would make you feel more inclined to get involved in school organizations?"
- Bringing in speakers from underrepresented communities. It's important to include incentives, however, as from my club experience, people are hesitant to come to these due to stigma surrounding these communities. I have researched and contacted organizations such as Triangle speakers (LGBTQ) and The Arc (Disabilities), both of which have said they would be willing to host events on campus.
- Continue Instagram posts for Pride Month, Disability Rights Month , African American Heritage Month, Indigenous Heritage month. Include events and workshops such as painting on canvas, and making a collage with everyone's paintings.
- Market scholarships better. Many DA students that I have spoken to, particularly from underrepresented groups, don't even consider UCs due to financial reasons.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG to create a more equitable campus environment for students - I want to use my communication skills and diverse background to strengthen the bonds between students from all backgrounds. When I first came to De Anza, I felt pretty lost and isolated, so I'm going to do my best to help others find community and feel appreciated!

7. Program Affiliations: Active Minds

Nishita Mekala (She/Her)

DASG Equity & Diversity Officer



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become the Equity and Diversity officer because SRE is a committee that I think heavily aligns with my goals and values for De Anza. I want our campus to be as inclusive as we can possibly make it. I want to help be the voice of marginalized groups and help tackle current issues that revolve around the current political climate. I want to be able to start and continue projects that help protect and support De Anza student to strive for better.

2. What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Senate?

Some skills that I have are leadership, passion, drive, communication, and commitment. I am willing to put in my all if that means that I am able to help De Anza students thrive and be able to access resources otherwise unavailable. Being a part of DASG consistently since fall quarter is enough to emphasize my commitment to it.

3. What other commitments do you have and how will you manage your time?

My other commitments include my job, my medical assisting certification, and possibly a sport as well depending on my schedule. I personally manage my time through my calendar and I make sure to give myself plenty of time for all the tasks I need to get done. I am the type of person that thrives under a busy schedule and that helps motivate me and keep my schedule constantly occupied.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

I am very confident in my ability to be a good leader and I hope to create a positive space for current and future students, whether on campus or off campus.

5. What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?

A concern that I think DASG should address is the manner in which student government comes off to the students of De Anza. One of the biggest issues is not hearing direct student concerns due to a lack of engagement from the general public. Proving that DASG is a truly welcoming space would do wonders for student government and our school. Due to the feeling of "untouchableness" students are often reluctant to partake in DASG, which I truly think is a shame because we have so many creative minds and voices within our school that could offer amazing insight.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG because I wanted to be a part of the positive changes being made on campus. I wanted to help facilitate ethnic and minority groups on campus to ensure equity and support as well as starting projects of my own based on issues I see on campus.

7. Program Affiliations: De Anza Student Government (DASG) Senate and/or Committee(s)