

Voter's Guide 2026- 2027 DASG Internal Officer

DASG Internal Officers Student Rights and Equity

Aidai Boobekova (SHE/HER/HERS)

DASG Equity and Diversity Officer



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

I have grown a lot since my first year at De Anza. I came here for the engineering foundation to transfer, but this college has offered me more than just classes and transfer units. It has given me a community experience that transformed my values. Through interacting with students from many different backgrounds and life experiences, I have seen how meaningful this environment is. I have met a mother of two working toward medical school to become a physician, an international student pursuing environmental engineering to design infrastructure for flood-prone regions, and an civil engineering student with the goal of rebuilding cities affected by war. I have also met high school dual enrollment students who are just beginning their paths and professionals in their forties taking photography classes. Everyone is so

different, yet united through De Anza, which reflects one of the key strengths of community colleges.

Through my involvement with the International Student Program (ISP) and UndocuSTEM, I have learned not only how to support students, but also how to care deeply about the communities I am part of and seek fairness and equity for them. These experiences showed me how important it is to create spaces where students feel heard, supported, and represented, especially during uncertain times shaped by global events such as wars and political forces.

As an Equity and Diversity Officer, I hope to strengthen connections between different student communities and create more opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration. I want to focus on making campus resources and opportunities not only known, but also accessible and applicable to all students, focusing to represent student voices from marginalized groups and take action in order to create a better environment for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

As a Special Projects Coordinator with the International Student Program (ISP), I have organized large cultural and academic events that support diverse student communities. One of the most meaningful experiences was serving as one of the organizers for Nowruz, where I coordinated across multiple student organizations, managed funding, and ensured the event ran smoothly. This experience taught me how to take responsibility for complex projects, communicate clearly with different groups, and stay organized under pressure.

During this process, I also gained experience in conflict resolution and creating inclusive spaces. With recent political tensions, some students had concerns about the event, and I helped create an open environment where people could express their perspectives.

Through my work with UndocuSTEM, I have developed a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by undocumented and underrepresented students. This experience strengthened my sense of advocacy, empathy, and commitment to creating more equitable opportunities. It also helped me understand how systems can impact students differently, and why representation and support are important.

In addition, balancing my roles as a student, worker, and community member has strengthened my time management, organization, and ability to stay focused and adaptable. I am

comfortable working with diverse groups, engaging in meaningful conversations, and contributing to a collaborative environment.

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

Besides being a full-time student, I work with the International Student Program as a Counselor Assistant and with UndocuSTEM as an Event Coordinator Intern. At first, I struggled with time management, but over time, I learned to stay organized using different apps such as Google Calendar and Notion to keep track of assignments and deadlines, and the Pomodoro Technique for deep focus in order to stay efficient and finish one task at a time. I also learned to be flexible by leaving some extra hours for emergency situations when I need to cover for someone else. I am able to balance each role as a student, worker, and DASG officer by responsibly dividing my time, being disciplined and focused, and also adaptable when needed.

- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

I am from Kyrgyzstan, a country many people have not heard about. During my exchange year in Michigan, that became my mission - to represent my country. When I first arrived, many of my classmates had never heard of Kyrgyzstan. They saw an Asian girl who speaks Russian with a nomadic culture.

At first, I struggled with some questions, including electricity, geography, and transportation. But, I decided to find ways to turn these questions into an opportunity of meaningful exchange. Throughout the year, my goal was to adapt to a new system, break stereotypes, and introduce them to an unknown region. I organized cultural presentations, shared our history and traditions, and answered uncomfortable questions about Central Asia. I wanted people to understand that my country is a community with its own identity. I learned not to get upset by questions such as whether we have electricity or not and learned to speak with clarity and openness. I have learned to carry my identity unshakingly and build an understanding between people who grew up from the other side of the world.

That mission did not end when I returned. I continue carrying that responsibility by building bridges in every room I enter, including De Anza

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

I want to make sure that all students feel supported represented and aware of the opportunities. At De Anza, there is a very diverse student body, but not all students have equal access to information and resources. From my experience working with the International Student Program and UndocuSTEM, I have seen how international and undocumented students often face additional challenges, such as navigating systems, financial pressure, and feeling

underrepresented. Many students do not know where to go for support or may not feel comfortable reaching out. I want to address these issues while working as DASG Officer.

Arnav Junday (He/Him/His)

DASG Equity and Diversity Officer



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

I am applying for this position as the DASG Equity and Diversity Officer since I have been actively involved in SRE since the fall quarter, and I know how crucial the role of this department is for students to get their voices heard. Personally, after arriving in the United States 2 years ago, I felt confused regarding all the resources available and needed at college due to a drastic shift in the education system. Experiencing that, I fully understand how difficult it might be for students, particularly newcomers and foreign learners, to be aware of everything.

One observation that came from my campaign for a position as a DASG was the lack of awareness amongst many students of resources such as SRE, Transfer Center, EOPS, and Basic

Needs. The reason behind this observation was the number of students who did not know about these resources, even though they were available.

With this role, I hope to concentrate on the improvement of visibility. In my mind, it would be great to make the students more aware of what they can do and what kind of service they can receive through such events as classroom talks, pop-ups, and activities organized directly for the students. The most important thing is to create an atmosphere where the students can speak freely.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

In terms of experience, I have gained a lot by being part of the Student Rights and Equity Committee and having been actively involved in the committee. I have attended meetings, provided ideas, and gotten to know how DASG functions very well.

Moreover, campaigning for a DASG position has taught me how to communicate effectively and reach out to students. I got the opportunity to connect with many students and gain insight into some of the issues that they face in their lives, particularly the problem of not being aware about what the school has to offer them.

Overall, I am a proactive person who likes to be there whenever there is a need to be there and always provides an active contribution whenever necessary.

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

Apart from my academic duties, I also participate in college activities and have some personal duties like exercising regularly, doing some domestic chores, and engaging in volunteer activities. Being able to handle these duties and responsibilities has enabled me to develop good time management skills.

Time management involves organizing my weekly activities and making sure that I plan everything in advance and maintain consistency in my planning and organization. I ensure that I do my academic assignments first before handling other duties and breaking down my work into smaller targets to be able to follow through easily.

Being aware of how I have been managing multiple responsibilities at once, I know that I can handle this responsibility and fulfill all my academic and personal duties.

- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

I have developed interest in this role not only because of my past experience but also because of the interaction I have had with many students throughout the course of my campaign. It became evident to me that there really does exist a resource-student knowledge gap based on the experiences I have had.

My motivation in taking this role is to help narrow this gap in addition to ensuring student government becomes more accessible and meaningful. I am willing to be taught, accept criticism, and do whatever it takes to get the job done.

To me, this job represents an opportunity for me to build on my experience and add to the success of the campus as a whole.

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

One of the issues that the DASG needs to pay particular attention to is lack of awareness regarding available resources. During my campaign, I found that many students were unaware of what SRE and other programs, such as EOPS, HEFAS, Transfer Center, and Basic Needs offer, despite these being incredibly helpful for students.

The solution to this problem would be greater focus by DASG on outreach in terms of short presentations in the classrooms or announcements during the class periods. The approach of meeting students where they already are and informing them regarding the benefits of attending specific events might prove to be highly efficient, especially since the students would be prepared for the events before they come.

Moreover, another major concern that must be addressed is lack of proper communication between the students and the representatives of student government. Many students might be unaware of who to talk to and how to voice their opinion and concerns to the right people.

In addition to this, it should also be mentioned that many students face various problems when transferring from one educational institution to another due to numerous reasons, including lack of information about certain requirements.

Gabbi Pabilona (SHE/HER/HERS)

DASG Equity and Diversity Officer



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

When I came to America, I was barely 11 years old, and I could not speak English properly. During popcorn readings, kids would purposely call on me just to hear my strong accent and see me stuttering over my words. I felt alienated, and it made me feel ashamed for not having the perfect American pitch and accent. Years later, even when I managed to get a firm grasp of what an "American accent" should sound like, that feeling of being an imposter never truly went away; instead, it worsened when I realized I did not view men romantically, unlike my friends. Because I felt excluded in certain spaces, I promised myself to build my own community instead; in high school, I joined Silver Creek's FSU and Gay Club, where I found friends who made me feel comfortable with myself.

During October 2023 of my Junior year, when Hamas attacked Israel, my eyes were opened to the inhumane justice of the world. I knew the world I was living in was cruel and unjust, but I never thought that people were inhumane enough to justify the generations and generations of

genocide the Palestinians had to go through. I realized I could not sit still in my rose-tinted bubble of privilege anymore when other people are still being killed and unheard; and so, my friend and I chose to make a Google Slide presentation of the Palestine-Israel history to present to our school's 11th-grade history classes. Through this experience, I realized that just because I am finally at the privilege point of my life where I do not have to worry about being an immigrant nor a lesbian anymore, there are still people out there whose voices remain to be unheard and so it is up to us, the people with more privilege, to help uplift those voices.

This is what eventually got me involved in PAWIS (Pilipino Association of Working Immigrants). Through PAWIS, I became exposed to conversations about immigrant workers' rights and the realities of work exploitation.

These experiences are what draws me to the Equity and Diversity Officer Position. I know how it feels to have an underrepresented background, and working with unheard communities like PAWIS, made me realize how I desire to keep being part of organizations and communities that uplift overlooked voices, which is what DASG stands for. In this role, I hope to create spaces where students, especially from the backgrounds I have mentioned, feel safe speaking up and sharing their experiences without the fear of being dismissed. If given the privilege, I want to use this role to uplift voices that sometimes go unheard to create a campus environment rooted in empathy and representation.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

Through my involvement with PAWIS, I was able to step outside of my own experiences and listen to the stories of immigrant workers who are still facing exploitation and unfair treatment. Hearing these conversations made me realize that advocacy is not just about speaking up, but also about listening and understanding people before trying to help. It taught me how to be more patient, more aware, and more intentional with how I communicate with others.

For a long time, I was scared to step into leadership roles because I did not feel capable enough, but over time, I learned that leadership is not about being perfect, it is about being willing to try and grow. This is something I carried with me into college, where I started my own Beauty x Tech club, a space centered around identity, empowerment, and making people feel comfortable. Building this club from the ground up taught me how to organize ideas, work with others, and create something that reflects not just what I care about, but what other people need as well. Overall, these experiences have shaped how I lead, and I want to bring that into

DASG by supporting students, speaking up for different voices, and helping create a space where people feel heard

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

Outside of DASG, I currently work weekly at the Villages, I am the president of the Beauty x Tech club, I am interning with De Anza's PUSO club, and I also volunteer with PAWIS when I can. While this may seem like a lot, I am able to manage these commitments because I stay organized and intentional with my time. I rely heavily on communication, both with the people I work with and the teams I am part of, to make sure expectations are clear and responsibilities are shared. I also use tools like Google Calendar to plan out my schedule and portion my time realistically, so I am not overcommitting myself. Through this, I have learned how to balance multiple responsibilities while still staying present and reliable in each one. Because of this, I am confident that I can manage my time effectively and fully commit to DASG while continuing to stay involved in the communities I care about.

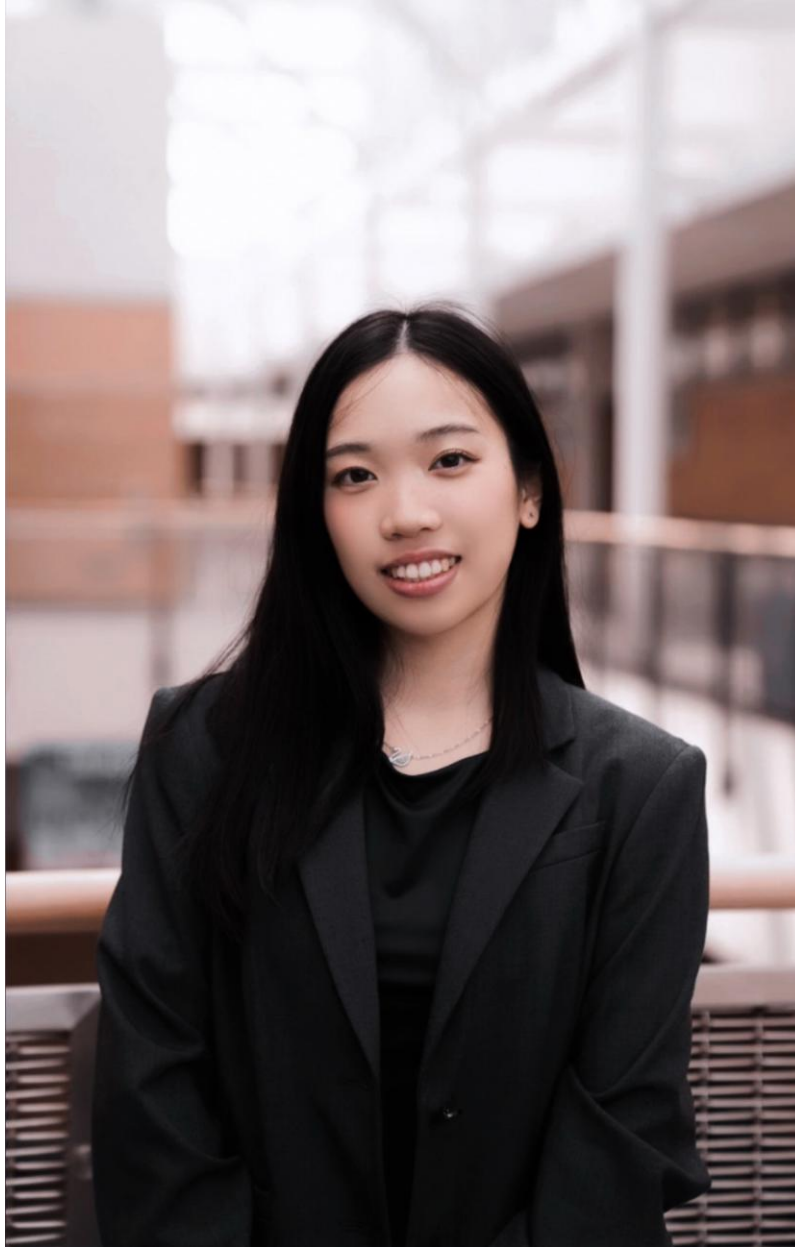
- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

Thank you for your time!

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

A lot of the concerns I feel DASG should address come down to students feeling unheard or overlooked, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. From my own experiences as an immigrant and queer student, I know how easy it is to feel out of place or like your voice does not matter, even in spaces that are meant to support you. I think one of the biggest issues is that while diversity is often talked about, it is not always felt in a meaningful way by students. For example, clubs and spaces centered around culture, identity, and community are not always promoted as much as business or STEM-focused clubs, which can make it harder for students to even find spaces where they feel like they belong. There are still gaps in how accessible resources are, how comfortable students feel speaking up, and how connected different communities on campus are to each other. I also think there is a tendency for awareness to stop at surface-level conversations, rather than turning into real action or change. Because of this, I believe DASG should focus more on creating spaces where students can openly share their experiences, making sure diverse organizations are supported and visible, and ensuring that student voices are not only heard but actually acted on.

Ella Yang (SHE/HER/HERS)
DASG Equity and Diversity Officer



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

I believe that diversity and equity are foundational parts of student government. Every student should be able to have fair representation in the government that serves them and that's what I want to bring to DASG. It's very important that students feel that they are included and part of our activities and different committees. If I were to be selected as an SRE officer, I would create a bridge for marginalized communities to be a part of student government, hear the needs and support students who have concerns and new ideas for DASG, and collaborate with campus organizations such as VIDA, HEFAS, etc. to bring more innovative and inclusive events to reach

out to more students. An important part of SRE is the liaison senators and I would organize and coordinate with them to have their ideas shared and heard among the senate as they are also important in representing the boarder communities in De Anza. I hope to make DASG a better place and make meaningful contributions to the impact DASG has on the community and student body. I hope to provide value in my work increasing equity and diversity within our community.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

I want to bring honesty, organization, and integrity as an equity and diversity officer. I believe that these are the fundamental principles and values of representing student rights and equity in DASG. Some of the experiences I have under my belt include being an intern of the SRE committee for 2024-2025 school year from fall, winter and spring quarter. Through interning I participated in an intern lead project in collaboration with the previous student rights officer. I also volunteered in the organization and tabling in several resource fairs. I also want to foster and develop new events and opportunities for the next year's students through SRE. I think it's important to provide and serve the students I represent by bringing as much value as I can provide in such a meaningful role of student government. As for the senate as a whole I want to be fair and consistent senator. It's important to hear all sides before making important decisions. It's important to do research and understand the needs of the students we represent and give a fair assessment to all groups and organizations.

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

I have don't have any other leadership commitments at this point but I am a full time student and work part-time.

- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

I have some mock-project ideas for events and workshops I would hold if I were elected to be equity and diversity officer.

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

I think it's important to address internal conflicts such as equity in representation, and improving communication and education. I thinks it's crucial that we also address conflicts and how to handle and respond to sensitive topics properly, professionally, responsibly, and respectfully. It's important that student government is aware of how we are representing students and interacting with the public members. I want to help improve how students feel towards our current system and improve our reputation and relationships with campus organizations.

Huey Lee (HE/HIM/HIS)
DASG Student Rights Officer



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

I want to continue on the work currently being done by the SRE committee for immigrant rights. I want to ensure an awareness across campus of everyone's rights in the face of law enforcement, to ensure that everyone is treated fairly. Besides that, I would like to expand " Know Your Rights " workshops to take place at our quarterly resource fairs, ensuring students have easy access to immigrant rights lawyers, and also for our quarterly resource fairs to include representatives from universities, to ensure all students at de anza are given the best chance at success.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

Representing student voices has always been a passion of mine. I grew up in a Malaysian public secondary school, like many public schools, mine was severely underfunded, and students were completely unrepresented in discussions. After graduating secondary school, I went on to a pre-university college to complete my 12th Grade. There, I got an opportunity to represent my cohort of around 600 students in grade. I represented not only the students, but lecturers as well, bringing forth many changes that helped improve campus life, like better class schedules, fixed air conditioning, water dispensers on every block of campus with at most two floors between one dispenser and another, and fixed potholes in the open-air car parks. I also bring my experience growing up in a multiracial, multicultural country, combined with my hands-on experience working with my multilingual patrol members throughout my tenure to achieve the King Scout badge (Eagle Scout equivalent), which has already prepared me to represent students of all different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. Now, as an international student living in De Anza's student housing, I represent a new group of voices and help create a campus where everyone feels welcome.

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

I am involved in a few clubs, including PBL, Music and Volunteering Association, Malaysian and Singaporean Association. Of these clubs, the only two clubs that have events actively are the first two, I have an abundance of time outside of those classes for responsibilities

- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

None

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

Besides what I have already stated, I also believe the DASG should pay closer attention to students living in student housing, and take more active initiatives to improve the infrastructure connecting students, including better walkways and shuttles.

Ray Singam (HE/HIM/HIS)
DASG Student Rights Officer



- **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 Student Rights Officer because I have a strong passion in upholding the values and rights of the different communities that make up the greater student body, and I feel strongly that not all of their voices are able to be heard at times. I would like to be a part of the DASG and help make a change by continuing to advocate for the opinions and thoughts of De Anza's students.

- **What are some of the skills and experiences that you will bring to the DASG Internal Officer position you applied for and the DASG Senate as a whole**

Having been previously the President of my high school's Student Council, as well as the President of the Interact Club, I believe I have the necessary skills in being a leader and advocating for not only those within my organization, but also the student cohort as a whole. I

have also been heavily involved in volunteering in my spare time with the Inclusive Outdoor Classroom organization in Malaysia, where I helped advocate for the inclusion and rights of kids with disabilities; this highlights my interest in fighting for not only the rights of the general student population, but also communities that are often overlooked by society.

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

I am an active member of the Phi Beta Lambda club, and am equipped with time management skills I developed over the years through my active participation in clubs and volunteering. I believe I manage my time wisely and am able to be a great addition to the DASG as the Student Rights Officer.

- **Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)**

Through the points previously discussed, I know that I will do a great job as a Student Rights Officer. I would like to tackle the many challenges that the DASG might face in the coming days concerning student feedback and also any relevant input from DASG members as well.

- **What student concerns do you feel the DASG should address?**

Concerns that students often have revolve around the general activities and opportunities at De Anza college; I believe students hope there would be more activities and events at De Anza that would foster socialization and dismantle the widely accepted belief that community colleges are socially 'dead'.

Additional Info:

[Resume](#)