

**DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison Midterm Elections
2024-2025
Candidates Handbook**

Mark Manansala
DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison and what do you hope to achieve?

In truth, I want that community. I've been loving every minute of where I am and I want to be in a position where I can unite them all. The administration committee is a team that I will unite now as a prospective intern, and I will continue to do as the Legislative Affairs Liaison. They all have such compelling ideas that are fascinating, and if I can bring them to their biggest potential, then that is all that's required for change no? We've got the community to make community.

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

In high school, I was in the student body and Vice President of the Filipino Student Organization. In both I've developed communication, public speaking, and presenting skills. Currently I volunteer at a food bank and have been for a year, waking up to cook them eggs. The past five weeks of being a prospective intern, I've been doing the initiatives and connecting the committees that make them. I've been presenting what I received to the rest of my group members AND the the opposite team. I've asked individuals what they specifically have been working on. And I have presented what I've found to the committee as a whole. The next 31 weeks I will do as I have been. Connecting with committees internal or external, finding problems to solve, genuinely listening to them and treating them like brothers, and presenting them to the senate or the state, or whatever task you all got for me.

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

I respect Eddy for making things clear that DASG should not be a priority; I have school and to transfer first, I have a life I want to live as well. However, I can say that I am at a steady state with school right now. Although hard, I am making it work and stress free through organization of my life and journaling. My workload with intern projects has been manageable. I do expect things to get harder, and November for all of us transferring will be tough, but by doing things early and beginning with the end in mind, I can make all the aggregate-mini-choices in my favor. I have control.

4. Additional Comments

None

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

More Interconnected College (so connecting the commuter students more easily through marketing, promotion, or UI systems and suggestions to get students more involved) Exposure of Student Benefits (not only does this get students involved and connected, but helps out the community as well, cause we have these services we need them to use it!) West Valley College Tuition System (use them as reference to possibly get free tuition from all; idea by Sophia Commisso but I mention it here cause I want to act on it)

Nishita Mekala
DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison and what do you hope to achieve?

I am interested in being a crucial part of how the student body runs within De Anza. Legislative Affairs Liaison takes student concerns and works on changing the Bylaws to advocate for that concerns. This position allows for the De Anza student body to be heard and that is what I strive for.

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

I personally have passion and drive when it comes to advocating for people's issues. Doing so for my fellow students at De Anza would be something I would do to the best of my ability and something I would take pride in. I am also a very communicative person, I am willing to work out any issues that are brought up through conversation. I would also like to think that I have leadership skills due to being the swim team captain for 2 years consecutively at my high school. I love writing as well, in any form, so writing resolutions or proposals, while boring to others, would interest me.

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

Other than DASG, I am part of one club, and I work a part-time job on the weekends. I manage my time by having a calendar and keeping myself on track with anything I have to get done. I have worked very hard on my time management and make a conscious effort to prioritize what is important to me in my life.

4. Additional Comments

As I have been a part of admin, I have helped with discounts, meaning I have been in the process of writing a proposal for the companies and I have also visited most of the places in person to have a conversation with the establishments. I have tried to build a bond with De Anza for places outside of De Anza hoping to form relationships that benefits the student body as a whole.

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

Some student concerns that DASG should address would be mental health awareness or check-ins and having more student out reach specifically about De Anza events. It would also be great if the bathrooms included hooks, sanitary items, and a baby changing station.

Allen Tran

DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison because I am genuinely passionate about my community at De Anza and I hope to be able to become a positive impact to the college community. My goal is to bring positive change and serve my fellow students to the best of my abilities.

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

I hold multiple leadership experiences. I am the vice president of a club that fosters 300 members and a marketing director of a club that fosters 100 members. I've hosted big events like college tournaments that involved plenty of logistical obstacles and other events. I am a mentor at De Anza college. I'm interning for DASG for my second year while serving almost every branch there is at De Anza. These leadership positions I've held or am currently in shows leadership experience, logistics experience, marketing experience, and etc.

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

I have many commitments like school, mentorship, clubs and internship, however, like every other great leader, I will understand my priorities and my responsibilities and prioritize what my greatest responsibilities are. For instance, if I am honored with this important position, I will understand that I will need to allocate more of my schedule and time to this position in order to serve my community as a potential senator.

4. Additional Comments

I am applying for this position purely out of passion and because I care about my campus community so much. This is my last year here so there is no application benefit to me dedicating my time to such a great responsibility besides genuine care and love for my community.

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

There are many concerns I have about our community and the problems students face from student safety, housing, food, De Anza's many programs, the cafeteria, the mental health and wellness services, lack of internships and opportunities, and etc. I hope for a future where DASG can help students by addressing these problems if possible.

James Nguyen
DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become the Legislative Affairs Liaison because I want to advocate for student's needs and ensure that their concerns are being heard by the rest of the student body. Resolution writing allows me to enact purposeful, meaningful, and effective changes across campus that allow me to impact the lives of the regular students. Through the means of gathering statistical data and other forms of research, I wish to give a voice to struggling students and bring the tools to implement changes to best address these student's concerns. I am representing a college environment that is supportive and welcoming to students of all different backgrounds, standing united under the shared goal of acquiring knowledge. My goal is to better maintain a structure for students that will guarantee their success in their educational goals. I wish to achieve this by identifying the key problems that prevent students from success, and examining which resources can be improved on to create solutions. This is all in the name of contributing to the betterment of both student success and college life.

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

I will bring my experiences in outreach, collective action, community building to the DASG Senate. I am currently starting an internship working under a policy director for Veggielution, where I will be assisting in researching food policy, engaging with outreach with constituents, and advocating to advance food sovereignty. Once starting, I will begin assisting with coordinating a fundraiser for over 250 community leaders, partners, and advocates in hopes of supporting community engagement. This experience allows me to engage with people from all different backgrounds and unite them all together towards a single community. My skills of advocacy work and outreach are all things I can bring onto DASG. In highschool, I was an active member of my Greenfingers Gardening Club, which prioritized working in teams of people to bring change upon campus. Alongside that club, we painted murals, recovered flower beds, and restored a dry patch of land into a communal garden for all students to harvest. This was done through designated group projects, where teams of people would work on one specific aspect of the project to bring big changes. This allowed me to see the impact of collective movement and understand the importance of cooperation with others. One person will not make a big difference alone, but it only takes one person to speak up for others to follow. My experience in collective action is something I will bring to DASG Senate. I was also previously the Vice President of Pass the Plate Club, where I engaged in distributing food for over 100 students. The students themselves were in Special Education classes, and my club coordinated alongside the student's parents to provide the funding for these student's lunches. This included promoting the club over the school's intercom system, answering questions from the school newspaper, and representing the club on Club Day. Our club was open to any students who wanted food, allowing us to reach a wider range of students. I will bring my experience in community building to DASG Senate.

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

I am a full time student at De Anza, managing 16 units, I am also the Co-President of the Dungeons & Dragons Club, and on Fridays I am working for Veggielution. Knowing these commitments, I developed effective time management tactics that have remained successful for me. I employ the use of a physical agenda to be able to manage my tasks. This

task list displays my objectives in order of importance and setting a designated deadline in which they need to get done. When it comes to schoolwork, I make an effort to complete assignments done far ahead of time. This allows me to learn at a quicker pace while already developing a basis of the material before I even step foot in class. When class is finished, I schedule time to study in the library and complete the rest of my work. I also use my google calendar to keep my daily schedule. This is where my classes, events, and appointments go. It is listed in order of importance to me and how necessary they are, allowing me to move around my time availability and change around things as I wish. This not only allows me to keep in track what the most important reservations are, but when it should be time to take a break from studying to get a snack or hang out with a friend and study.

4. Additional Comments

I have no additional comments.

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

I feel as if DASG should address lack of accessible information for newer students. I noticed that most newer students are unaware of the vast amount of student resources that are available for student's basic needs. Things ranging from (but not limited to) the food pantry, resource hub, the student success center, transfer center, financial aid offices, tutoring services, student health services, parenting and childcare services, housing resources, and other resources. There are attempted workarounds to this, such as completing online orientation, searching the school website, and welcome to college classes, but those are resources that only a few students will actively seek out themselves. There is no easy information network for students to access. The main sources of online information for a De Anza student would be connecting with others through Discord, Instagram, or Facebook. However, that presents an information disparity for students who don't have social media. Physical marketing is done through posted flyers around campus, but that would isolate students who may not be on campus all the time. This lack of centralized organization leads to disadvantaged groups being unable to receive the support services they need, first time college students at a higher sense of isolation, and regular students feel a disconnected from the college culture.

The Cuong Vuong
DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison



1. Why do you want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison and what do you hope to achieve?

The reason I want to become the DASG Legislative Affairs Liaison is because I'm genuinely interested in learning more about the experiences of students and understanding De Anza as a whole by exploring the problems, issues, and resolutions that we work on in the administration. I love hearing the stories of people from different perspectives and finding ways to solve any challenges students face, whether related to the school, professors, or any other needs that can improve their satisfaction as much as possible. I've noticed that there are so many issues, from small things like adding hooks to bathroom doors to larger projects like addressing housing and the VTA bus line. I'm truly interested in all the projects we have, and I believe that if I become the Legislative Affairs Liaison, I will be able to contribute more while also learning about leadership and fulfilling more responsibilities. I understand that some projects can't be completed in a short amount of time. However, I'm committed to doing my best to tackle as many problems as possible while holding this position, by bringing fresh, unique ideas into the committee.

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

I have experience volunteering in various places with different responsibilities, which has helped me become more confident in my communication skills and working in a team. Having collaborated with people from diverse fields, I've developed a strong ability to adapt and connect with others. I also have a background in research from my time as a business major—I'm the type of person who digs deep into topics until I find effective solutions for my projects. I value punctuality, and I make it a priority to be on time for everything because I believe time is important for everyone involved. I also consider myself to have leadership skills. In nearly all my team experiences, I've taken the lead in guiding my teammates on how to conduct research, fix certain parts of our work, and overcome obstacles related to information gathering. I've also helped them practice presenting smoothly and encouraged them to build confidence in speaking before an audience. In addition, I like to listen to people and remain unbiased in all situations. When it comes to conflicts, advice, or areas for improvement, I am committed to making fair and balanced judgments. For problem-solving, I always strive to find the most suitable solutions based on the specific needs at hand. I enjoy thinking deeply about certain issues because the more I explore them, the better ideas I can generate. I would consider myself to have strong critical thinking and insightful problem-solving skills.

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

As I mentioned above, I will do my best to address any problems and create suitable solutions based on the projects we have. In terms of managing time for this position, I will work around my class schedule each quarter to ensure I can attend meetings without it affecting the time I dedicate to the committee or my personal matters. I already have a system in place to organize my time effectively, so no matter how many classes, meetings, or activities I have, I can manage them all efficiently while achieving the best results.

4. Additional Comments

I really want to commit to this position as a way to connect students with De Anza in better ways regarding their concerns so our school can grow with increased student satisfaction. I want to make De Anza a place where students not only come to study but also have long-term, enjoyable experiences—a place that comes up as a happy memory and fill with all the excitement experiences in conversations whenever students talk about their time here. Not only that, but solving students' needs also benefits De Anza, as addressing these needs can help improve the quality of our facilities and services. Therefore, I want to use this opportunity to challenge myself with the resolutions we already have while seeking more opinions on what can be done in the future to enhance students' experiences and satisfaction. My goal is to make De Anza a memorable place that stays in students' hearts for years, even after they transfer and succeed in life.

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

There are many concerns that I feel like we have to address and solve as soon as we can. I believe that many students want to take different classes in different schools not just from De Anza due to the difficulty, professors, and the way different classes work here might not suitable with them. This lead them wanting to take classes besides from here, however, many of them are unable to travel to other schools in time. I feel like this is a very big concern as it relates to VTA bus line and we still finding way to solve it in a long run. The idea with Hopper is a very interesting idea that I really hope to achieve. Another one is that many students also concern about the cafeteria food quality and prices. Many of my friends also complained sometime that the food is overpriced according to the quality of the food and there are too less variety of food and they might out of interest of eating the same thing all the time. Also, there are many students starting to take classes after 4pm, so that might be the issue as well if the place closed too early. This is one of the projects that I hope we can resolve in a way that can benefit to student health, worth their money and also their time. Besides from that, there is one issue that many students have regarding the counseling service. There are several counselors did not give student a full overview that fit with each students needs and plan to their future unless they found out themselves or from their friends and recheck with counselors for clarification, sometime students followed what they planned for us despite that was not the best them. My friends and I experienced it many times and have to recheck with the counselor every single season, and when we got the full view on our own, it is too late to fix the plan. I did not say that every students would experience the same thing as some of them might get lucky and have all the information needed whereas the rest of students did not. This is one of the concerns I've noticed among students, and it's something I've personally experienced as well. I still have more ideas on how we can improve our campus if I'm given the opportunity to hold a responsible position within the committee. Overall, we should address every concern that students have, but we need to prioritize the most critical ones—those that directly affect student well-being and convenience at De Anza. I think that by focusing on these immediate needs, we can create a more supportive and efficient environment for everyone.