

Voter's Guide

2024-2025

DASG Midterm Senator Election
Budget Analyst & Elections Commissioner
02/05/2025

Budget Analyst

Alan Ma (He/Him) **DASG Budget Analyst**



**Accommodations Needed (Audio Descriptions or Narration, Sign-Language, Transcription, etc.)*

none

1. Why do you want to become the DASG Budget Analyst or DASG Elections Commissioner and what do you hope to achieve?

For many students, college is the first time they are able to delve into their interests and become independent adults, and the resources available to them play a crucial role in determining their college experience. At the core of many programs and services offered to students is the Finance Committee, and as a Budget Analyst I aim to help fund programs that are critical for a positive college environment. For instance, programs such as HEFAS are needed more than ever, and we need to make sure that such programs receive adequate funding so that all students have an opportunity to pursue higher education and advance their careers. Part of that will also come from mitigating and preventing budget decline, and as a Budget Analyst I want to continue the trend of institutionalizing essential programs, like we have done with Athletics. Through this, the Finance Committee will be able to provide support more in areas that are truly within our jurisdiction. Additionally, I want to continue the Finance Committee's efforts in making the Budget Deliberations process more efficient and equitable. The committee has improved the forms significantly this year, and I plan to continue that work so that programs are able to fill out budget requests with adequate detail and reasoning. Furthermore, I want to try to gather responses from students regarding the programs they participate in, and use that in our budget deliberations. I believe this can be done as part of the program familiarization project for interns, and would help us get a clearer picture of what the programs are providing for students.

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

I hope to bring my planning, teamwork, and leadership skills to the DASG Senate. I developed these skills through past experiences such as being part of the Santa Clara County Youth and Young Adult

Advisory Board, which is part of the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health. As a board member, I worked with the department and led efforts in planning the Getting to Zero Program, which strives for zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related deaths, and zero HIV-related stigma and discrimination in the county. I collected data from youth in our community and used it to help plan out the program. Additionally, as the event coordinator for De Anza MVA, I've worked with the officer team to plan music events and create meaningful activities for members. Lastly, as a member of RAPP, I am contributing to the resource allocation, hiring, planning, and evaluation processes of De Anza as part of a shared governance committee. By the time I assume the role of Budget Analyst, I will have gained valuable experience in student leadership at De Anza and worked alongside Finance Senators. I've also become more reliable and better at time management as part of these organizations.

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

I'm part of RAPP, which will meet up to 3 hours per week. I'm also participating in De Anza MVA, which will meet 1.5 hours per week. I don't have any other commitments, so managing my time won't be difficult. I will manage my class load and ensure that I devote enough effort to the DASG Senate.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

The high school that I went to was competitive to the point of sometimes being toxic, and having come from that situation, I want to help ensure that De Anza students can enjoy a genuine learning experience by serving in DASG.

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

I'm not exactly sure what would be the best way for DASG to address this, but I think a number of students are socially disconnected from each other and from the De Anza community. I recently asked classmates about club day and how they felt about social life at De Anza, and it seems like some people are lacking genuine connection with others, and don't believe in our clubs. Many students seem to have adopted a routine of just going to classes and then straight to home.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG because I wanted to help make a difference in terms of improving student life and the college experience at De Anza. I aim to ensure that students have enough support and the necessary resources to flourish and achieve their academic goals. DASG is a great way for students to build a college environment that truly helps them.

7. Program Affiliations: Club, Cross Cultural Partners (CCP), Honors Program,

Iker Amox Jimenez (He/Him)

DASG Budget Analyst



**Accommodations Needed (Audio Descriptions or Narration, Sign-Language, Transcription, etc.)*

none

1. Why do you want to become the DASG Budget Analyst or DASG Elections Commissioner and what do you hope to achieve?

I first joined DASG as an intern as I had a strong desire to step outside of my comfort zone, meet new people, and gain new experiences. I came to grow a deep appreciation for the work we do in the finance committee, and now seek to play a larger role in it. I'm applying for the position of budget analyst as I want to have a meaningful impact on the school community, influencing decisions that improve the quality of life for our peers. Managing the budget is a crucial obligation of the Senate, as it plays a huge role in determining the resources available to students. As such I plan to properly assess the financial needs of the programs and the desires of the students to ensure the best quality of life for those at De Anza. In order to achieve this I would work to improve communication and understanding of the various programs we work with.

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

I have multiple years of leadership and teamwork experience, each of which has strengthened my ability to understand and collaborate with others. I have been involved with UNICEF for around four years now, being tasked with a variety of roles including Outreach Coordinator, Event Coordinator, and Treasurer. Due to the nature of these roles, I developed strong communication skills, team coordination, and adaptability skills. Along with this, I was a part of my high school varsity debate team, participating in parliamentary debate. My time there not only improved my speaking skills, but made me more aware of how to navigate conflicting viewpoints, and how to bridge gaps to reach desired goals. Alongside my experience with the committee through being an intern, I am confident I bring the skills necessary to carry out the duties of a Budget Analyst.

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

Alongside classes, I am also involved with two clubs on campus. They do not impede my ability to be present for both finance and general senate meetings. Due to the structure of my schedule, I have adequate time to fit in all the time commitments this role would require.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

Just some general background on me- I'm a big music fan and I enjoy going to local shows and spending a lot of my free time drumming. Always open to music recs:) I am also currently learning Japanese, took it throughout high school but definitely need more practice. Overall really grateful for this opportunity and look forward to the elections!

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

Developing a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of the funded programs. I believe the intern programs can be better utilized to achieve this, providing more sources of insight going into annual budget deliberations.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG to become more involved with the student body and create meaningful memories during my time here.

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

Kyle Krawez (He/Him)

DASG Budget Analyst



**Accommodations Needed (Audio Descriptions or Narration, Sign-Language, Transcription, etc.)*

none

1. Why do you want to become the DASG Budget Analyst or DASG Elections Commissioner and what do you hope to achieve?

I am running for the position of DASG Budget Analyst because I believe I possess the skills, commitment, and enthusiasm to improve De Anza's financial operations. I want to ensure that every program on campus is properly evaluated and reviewed, so it receives proper funding. Finance has been a long-standing passion in my life, from investing in stocks at a young age, to managing the finances for my own business. In addition, I was actively involved with student government in high school, where I had the opportunity to create memorable experiences for students. As a member of my high school's community commission, I helped engage students with the local community, such as leading the creation of a webpage to connect students with local volunteer organizations, that in turn helped both students looking for volunteer work and organizations looking for help.

At De Anza's New Student Welcome Day, Luca introduced me to the Finance Committee. It quickly sparked my interest, as it blended my interest in Finance with my passion to make a meaningful impact on campus. Eager to contribute, I quickly joined on as an Intern for the Finance Committee. Since then, I have been actively involved in shaping the committee's finance decisions. I have made valuable contributions to the committee, from recommending changes to the budget, to maximizing the funding for student programs, to refining the budget submissions forms to better analyze programs for the future. If elected as a Budget Analyst, I am excited to be able to implement changes and create a larger impact on the school community. I am also excited for the other duties that accompany this role, including participating in the Shared Governance for district budgeting.

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

I have been passionate about both finance and business throughout my life, and I have spent years developing these skills. To this end, one of my most relevant experiences has been creating and managing a business, which I grew from an initial \$100 investment to over \$22,000 in revenues within 7 months. Today, this venture is generating around \$4,000 in monthly revenue and it continues to grow. While the financial success of starting a business is rewarding, more importantly, this venture has taught me many invaluable lessons about business, finance, and entrepreneurship. In addition to learning the basics of buying and selling products, I have also gained an understanding of how to manage the business's finances, including managing inventory, tracking the constant flow of thousands of dollars in purchases and sales, and managing income and cash flow balances. Running this business has also taught me accounting skills, as I have learned about the many complications of filing taxes, tracking deductions, and balancing the costs of an employee and overhead. This adventure has taught me an enormous amount about the many complications an entrepreneur faces. My experience in finance also includes a prior summer internship at a local investment management firm where I learned first-hand about managing money, as well as running the finances of my high school debate team, including relieving them of over \$3,000 of debt by securing a large sponsorship from a local company.

Another skill which I believe will be helpful for DASG is my public speaking skills. I competed on my high school Varsity Debate team, earning the highest speaker score in some of my tournaments around the Bay Area. As an experienced debater, I have learned about the importance of listening to others' opinions, fairly analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of an issue, and presenting solutions that take into consideration many different viewpoints. Finally, I was a top performing salesman for the local Classic Car Wash chain, where I utilized my speech skills to set records for daily membership sales, surpassing the performance of many long-term employees.

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

The main commitments that I currently have are classes and my business. I spend around 30 hours a week collectively working on these items. However, the hours of my business are flexible, and I mostly work on it at night, which leaves me open during the day.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

N/A

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

The most important concern that I feel DASG should address is the impact of the Federal administration's recent policy changes, in particular on undocumented students. This is a pressing issue that affects the many students at De Anza. Given its significant impact, I strongly believe that DASG should consider how to best help support and protect our fellow students during these difficult times.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I chose to join DASG because I believe it is essential for students to have a voice in shaping their campus. DASG provides students with the opportunity to advocate for themselves and promote

positive change, which is crucial for any democracy. I see DASG as a chance to improve upon the livelihoods of my fellow students and faculty, and I'm excited to be a part of it.

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

Elections Commissioner

James Nguyen (He/Him/His) DASG Elections Commissioner



**Accommodations Needed (Audio Descriptions or Narration, Sign-Language, Transcription, etc.)
Transcriptions, Audio Descriptions or Narration, Captions, (Repeating things twice)*

1. Why do you want to become the DASG Budget Analyst or DASG Elections Commissioner and what do you hope to achieve?

I want to become the DASG Elections Commissioner because I wish to oversee the process of the general and midterm elections and ensure that the elections are running as smoothly as they can. Holding such an important position means that I will regularly be providing information to uninformed prospective senators about what their duties are and doing my best to increase the amount of voter turnout for the general student populace. It is very important to me that the students in De Anza are able to exercise their voice & right to vote and that others can see me as a dependable source of information on the election proceedings.

I hope to achieve a fair and equitable elections process where all candidates are knowledgeable about their rights, while all of their constituents are informed voters who know which candidate can best represent their interests. This is all to serve a more communicative and active student body, who can be prepared to represent their constituents' interests to the best of their ability, as well as make the students of the De Anza campus by more unified by having a say in who their representatives are.

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

I will bring my experiences in public speaking, outreach, and community building to the DASG Senate.

I have experience presenting slides and communicating effectively with an audience of people, as for my role of President of one of De Anza's Clubs, I am able to organize and present slides every week teaching a classroom of my club members on the basics of how to play board games. I also advertised my club to other fellow students during Club Day, answered questions about the Club for the La Voz School Newspaper, and am able to bring back information for my club during ICC meetings.

As my role as part of the Advocacy & Public Policy team at a non-profit called Veggielution, I also am able to provide support with meetings with other organizations. There's a collective called the Urban Growers Network with 8 other representatives from partnered organizations that come together to discuss plans for community outreach. I am able to provide support in time scheduling, making calls, or simply finding ways to maintain closer connections with those organizations. This experience has given me skills in outreach and organization, as well as time management.

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 (maximum 200 words)

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.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG to be able to use my skills in research to help bring positive change to the lives of students.

7. Program Affiliations: De Anza Student Government (DASG) Senate and/or Committee(s), Mentors at De Anza, Pride Center

Elections Commissioner

Tracy Chang (She/Her) DASG Elections Commissioner



**Accommodations Needed (Audio Descriptions or Narration, Sign-Language, Transcription, etc.)*

none

1. Why do you want to become the DASG Budget Analyst or DASG Elections Commissioner and what do you hope to achieve?

I chose to apply for the DASG Elections Commissioner position because I'm interested in upholding equitable elections to ensure elections are fair for all De Anza students while increasing student participation. I've been in the position where an election was compromised due to another candidate's behavior and I want to prevent that from happening at De Anza. Additionally, I want to increase interest and participation in student elections because I believe diversity is important for equal representation.

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

I am part of M@DA as their Vice Chair of Programs and VIDA as their Office Staff Intern. Through M@DA I've honed my leadership abilities and public speaking skills to lead events and meetings and delegate tasks alongside my team members. I can facilitate meetings, take meeting minutes, and collaborate respectfully with members of the organization. These skills I've gained from M@DA will help DASG create a more welcoming and respectable environment for the Senate and the public.

As a part of VIDA, I've learned how to work and communicate with faculty members which taught me the importance of communicating clearly to ensure there's no miscommunication. Learning how to reduce miscommunication is important when working in a team especially one as big as DASG

where words may be misinterpreted as confusing. With that knowledge, I know I can help revise the Administration and Election Codes as necessary to avoid future confusion and provide my opinion to other committee codes that need advisement.

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

I will continue to be involved in VIDA and M@DA in the Spring Quarter. To manage my time I keep track of my timetable via Google Calendar, reminders, and Apple Calendar. I take most of my classes online allowing me to dedicate time in person to DASG events and meetings.

4. Additional Comments (maximum 200 words)

Overall, my goal as the election commissioner is to promote and ensure fair elections allowing students to use their voices in decisions that impact their campus. I want students to remember the elections as a time when they helped shape their community.

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

I feel DASG should address the amount of participation we have in student elections and accessibility to resources. The participation rate for general elections was around 1,300-400 but De Anza holds a campus of 17,000+ students. It's alarming to see how many students are not participating in choosing the people who will help run their campus.

6. Why I Joined the DASG

I joined DASG to become part of a community that is made to ensure student experiences are enjoyable at a community college. Many have a hard time or non-enjoyable time at community college because they cannot find a community but being a part of DASG has become a way for me to help students find a community. Through DASG, I can help increase student retention through collaboration events and provide resources for first-year college students. I hope DASG becomes a space where students can come if they have questions or need resources.

7. Program Affiliations: De Anza Student Government (DASG) Senate and/or Committee(s), EOPS (Extended Opportunities Programs and Services), IMPACT AAPI (Initiatives to Maximize Positive academic Achievement and Cultural Thriving focusing on Asian American and Pacific Islander), Mentors at De Anza, VIDA (Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action),