Associated Students of Diablo Valley College

General Election Voter’s Guide

2021
President
Yusuf Bello

There is an Arabian proverb that says, “The leader of a people is their servant.” My name is Yusuf Bello, I am a second-year cognitive science major, and I am running to be your next student body President. I am running with the hopes of serving the student body by building a more inclusive campus, providing resources for our community, and helping international students succeed whilst at DVC.

Since I was young, my parents imparted within me a great need to serve my community. I moved frequently when I was younger, living in Canada, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin before my family settled in California, and while the settings changed often, my dedication to service didn’t. During my time at California High School, I frequently attended community service events, working with local community centers to tutor students (something I still do today), planting trees, and collecting clothes to be donated to disadvantaged communities. These experiences inspired me to join Leadership, the student government body at California high, in the hopes of better supporting my community. Alongside Leadership, I was involved in club activities; running and being elected to the position of president of the Muslim Student Union. I tirelessly worked to create a safe space for students to gather while on campus. I organized numerous events and frequently worked to make the school a more inclusive place for students of different identities. I made sure to serve my high school community to the best of my ability.

I brought this attitude of service to DVC. Since joining the college community, I’ve worked with numerous clubs, including the Muslim Student Union and Model United Nations Club. I am also a Student Ambassador, representing DVC at public events around the state. I am currently serving the student body as the chair of the Diversity Affairs Committee. My committee and I have hosted multiple events over the fall and spring, including but not limited to the Step Afrika Black History Month Celebration, hosting the nationally renowned speaker Joshua Fredenburg, with more coming this semester.

My journey has not been easy, as I have been challenged at every step of the way, stereotyped, and racially discriminated against. Despite that, I have maintained a strong devotion to community service, a commitment I want to imbibe in our campus community today. I am an immigrant who knows the issues at hand. I too understand that more can be done to support students, and I am the candidate for that. If elected, I will work tirelessly to provide a more inclusive campus, more beneficial resources for our community, and helping international students in all their endeavors. I will make sure to be the student voice, hosting round table discussions where our student body can come and share ideas that can then be
presented to the administration. I will be the president of all the students, native and international alike.
Hello Diablo Valley College Students,
I hope your semester is going great, full of educational activities and prosperous learning. I would like to thank you for dedicating your time, effort, and will toward engaging in a college education during these drastically uncertain times. My name is Isuru Dias and I am running for ASDVC President. I would like to serve as your Student Body President to maintain sustainability, efficiently implement change, and develop our campus to its maximum potential of student life and educational outcomes.

Primary Objectives and Tasks as Student Body President:

1) **SIMPILIFY the Grade Appeals Committee procedure and make students MORE AWARE of their options regarding Grade Appeals.** This semester, I joined the Grade Appeals Committee, and we have not received any appeals or disputes from the Fall 2020 Semester. This is positive news, but I believe a lack of knowledge and understanding of the grade appeals process has resulted in such minimal activity. I will strive to make the grade appeals process more user-friendly and raise awareness to students regarding the option of a grade appeal. As ASDVC Student President, I will discuss this topic in my ASDVC General Board Meetings, understand its effect through the Professional Development Education Committee, and implement new rules through the Rules and Legislative Committee.

2) **Advocate for student safety and the option of a FULLY ONLINE format course throughout specific classes that REQUIRE in person meetings during COVID-19.** Specific courses have required in-person meetings through a hybrid format during the COVID-19 pandemic without giving students the option of a fully online course. Last semester I started a movement to prevent DVC from requiring in person labs throughout upper level science courses. I presented this topic throughout four different committees and received information from counselling transfer specialists regarding the course format circumstances. Requiring students to attend in-person instruction potentially exposes them and their families to COVID-19. Additionally, for international students who are unable to reside in the U.S. these measures prevent them from taking their required courses. If COVID-19 extends and DVC continues...
with a primarily online format, I will continue to push this agenda topic as it presents a profound importance for the health and safety of our students.

3) **Efficiently Budget Funds making education MORE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE for local and international students.** With the cost of college education in the United States increasing, I will be making it a top priority to ensure the affordability for students of all backgrounds regardless of citizenship status. As ASDVC Student Body President I will continuously work toward securing more affordable housing and educational resources for students.

In Addition, I will focus on the following endeavors:
  - Expand the VOICE OF OUR STUDENTS by conducting short surveys weekly regarding a variety of topics such as educational feedback.
  - Introduce LIVE PHONE SUPPORT during times of registration for the following semester.

**Qualifications/Experience:**

1) ASDVC Senator (September 2020 - Present)
2) Professional Development Education Committee (September 2020 - Present)
3) Health Ad-Hoc Committee (Mental Health Coordinator) (October 2020 - Present)
4) Rules and Legislative Committee (February 2021 - Present)
5) Grade Appeals Committee (February 2021 - Present)
6) Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society (November 2020 - Present)

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas, concerns, beliefs, and philosophical doctrine regarding a variety of topics in the upcoming future. I hope you have a great rest of your semester and enjoy your time at Diablo Valley College.

Dedicated Efficient United
Strive for Greatness

-Thank You
Isuru Dias
Hello! My name is Zhangyang Zhou, and I will be a sophomore next year studying Business Administration, Economics, and Political Science. I am bilingual in Mandarin and English, and also learned Spanish since I was 11, so communication is not a problem. I went to an international school where students came from every habitable continent on Earth, so if elected as President, I’m confident that I am able to listen to every group’s needs. Ultimately, the beauty of DVC is that we get to meet so many different people at their different life stages, and that’s a powerful and diverse alliance to help each other reach our end goals! Talk to me about anything if you come to President office hours :) Especially if you want to find good food in the area, since I have a few lists that I’d like to get through with friends :)

My Agenda:

1. **Give All Students Pre-Professional Experience**: I plan to have a Career Week and multiple events under the Activities Committee, where students shall engage in an activity similar to those of what someone in a specific job would encounter. I also hope to promote ICC and DVCsync through the Public Relations Committee, and give the student body a list of majors or work fields that do not have a student run club on campus, so people can start new clubs catered to their niche.

2. **Enhance Unison and Inclusivity While Promoting Diversity**: I plan on having Diversity Committee Monthly Activities featuring Student Speakers of groups they would like to represent.

3. **Ensure Free Basic Needs of Food, Shelter, Safety, Health Care**: I plan to continue the overnight free parking system where students could live in their cars safely, and continue with the food pantry system. I also wish to extend our collaboration with the Timely MD Free Health service, and establish wellness centers for students to relax and destress.

My Qualifications/Activities This Semester:

1. **ASDVC-Parliamentarian, Rules and Legislative Committee Chair**
   a. Coached ASDVC senators on Parliamentary Procedures
   b. Research the possibility of having fully online science classes
   c. Implement ASDVC bylaw changes to make it easier for the public student body to become senators

2. **Global Leadership Organization UC Berkeley-Project Lead**
   a. Initiated my passion project of helping our grandparents during isolation of COVID, to help them learn how to use technology effectively so they can stay home comfortably with food or groceries delivered straight to their doorstep
   b. Provide opportunities for DVC students at UC Berkeley

3. **DVC Phi Beta Lambda-Project Manager**
   a. Trained consultants
b. Solved problems for clubs on campus by conducting SWOT and providing Growth Strategy Plans

Feel free to check out my LinkedIn and send me a message:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/zhangyang-zhou-7a3b931aa/

Thanks for patiently reading and voting. Have a wonderful day, and hope everything goes well for you!!
Greetings Everyone! My name is Mannie Manzone and it is my first year here at Diablo Valley College, I am currently majoring in Business Administration and carry a GPA of 4.0. I also hope to transfer to a UC after my 2 years here at DVC. I have experience in an overall team environment as I was on the student leadership board at California Highschool where I helped organize events like Prom, Homecoming, Ball, and even rallies for the student body. I also played football and threw for track throughout my 4 years at high school.

I feel as if my background of being a leader in a team environment will help me work with everyone in my community and on the overall student board as it has increased my ability to communicate and evaluate everyone’s suggestions and comment. I will dedicate my time to making sure that our communication abilities are always a top priority due to its importance when working together to create an overall positive environment for our student body.

Currently, I am a part of the senate of ASDVC, and I am also a member of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), helping to make our clubs and student government virtual environment a better place and overall stronger body for years to come. I find working with other people in our community is an essential to our daily life, increasing our social skills and also establishing new friendships with others in order to better Diablo Valley College as a whole. As you may be able to tell, I am very driven to establish strong friendships and relationships with my fellow peers. I look forward to meeting you all in person this upcoming fall and I also am extremely excited to become your VP of Executive Affairs! Thank you all and I wish you all the best.

**Goals/Mission Statement:**

- **Advocate for student’s mental health awareness:** Us students tend to be under a lot of pressure when in this college environment whether it be studying or just working on our normal classwork. We are all striving to reach our goals of transferring to a 4-year university outside of DVC and in the meanwhile we should all check up on each other to make sure we are in a healthy mental state, as well as being comfortable around campus. We are all in this together and it is essential to help each other out as much as we can.

- **Sports recognition:** On campus, there are some of us that aren’t just students who spend most of their time in the classroom during school hours. Outside of the classroom, students just like us spend their time training and working to represent us on certain stages like the football field, the track field, the baseball field, the basketball court, and more. Even though I may not play sports anymore, I
recognize that fellow athletes amongst our student body deserve appreciation and recognition for their efforts outside of the classroom which I will try my best to advocate for. Our athletes who represent us deserve the most support from us as possible.
My name is Kevin Li, I am a major in political science and student at Diablo Valley College. As an experienced member of the Associated Students of Diablo Valley College, I hope I may represent your voice as the Vice President of Legislative Affairs. As VPL, it would be my responsibility to be your delegate at all levels of community college associations, from our student government to larger regional and state-wide organizations such as the SSCCC. It would also be my responsibility to establish and/or maintain a program of political activism from the college level to the federal level. With my experience and involvement in both the previous and current administration of ASDVC, I have become acquainted with the knowledge and level of responsibility required by this position. My guiding principles when approaching student government are fidelity, integrity, and equitability; every student deserves equal representation with transparency and commitment by their representatives. As a prospective member of our student government’s executive board, I will carry on the decades-long legacy of our student government in representing student voices through the cooperation with my fellow ASDVC members as well as the rest of the student body.

As Vice President of Legislative Affairs, I aim to reinvigorate our student government’s program of political activism by drafting an official position statement based on the concerns of students regarding issues on the local, state, and federal level. Furthermore, I aim to do my part in re-establishing the line of communication between our governing body and the students to ensure fair and effective representation, and I will work with my fellow senators and executives to ensure that every ongoing ASDVC project gets completed in due time. Ultimately, my aim is to strengthen ties between ASDVC and both the student body and external community college student organizations to ensure that the voices and concerns of every student is being listened to and acted upon.
Hi everyone! My name is Colby Bergstad and I am running for controller of ASDVC. I am majoring in Business and Economics with a plan to transfer to UC Berkely. During a six-month period, I was an intern at a real estate office where I assisted in the handling of bookkeeping tasks such as bank reconciliation and monthly financial reports. During my time at DVC, I have been striving towards a multitude of associates degrees, one in specific being in business accounting. This has led me into many accounting courses including financial, and managerial accounting. On top of that, I have made it a mission of mine to be involved in student life as much as I can. I have been a senator for ASDVC since my first semester which has allowed me to become a part of both the student and college budget committees. I have been on the college budget committee for two semesters where I have worked with the faculty and staff of the college in order to make decisions about the college budget. I have also recently been able to become a co-chair of a subcommittee of the budget committee where we will be doing research on operational funds and reporting back to the committee. I am currently serving my first semester on the student budget committee where I am working with the current controller of ASDVC for the student budget. I am also currently the general meeting project lead in DVCs business club Phi Beta Lambda where I help lead the planning and execution of all general meetings that the club has. I believe all these experiences give me the proper knowledge and skills to be able to tackle the challenge of serving as the controller of ASDVC on behalf of the students.

Along with the other officers, I want to strive to make student life and ASDVC the best that they can be while advocating for individuality and leadership. As controller, I want to make sure that the money provided is dealt with efficiently and carefully so that every dollar of the budget is well spent with the thoughts of the students in mind. Being a part of the student government, I want to make sure that the students and their needs are at the forefront of every decision that is made.
Greetings everyone, my name is Wenjie Liang. I am an international student majoring in Japanese and economics with diverse experience in student club and association at high school. The reason I chose to start my higher education at DVC is that it is a family of students with various backgrounds and I enjoy being involved in such an environment. Talking to people, listening to your ideas and hopefully we can exchange something amazing via mutual inspiration.

Most of the time, I love helping to design sensible rules for the nonprofit organizations I joined and my dream job is to become an attorney someday. And this is the reason why I want to run for parliamentarian at ASDVC. At the position, I will coordinate well with the advisor and always let the student body go first. I strongly believe that altering and adding regulations that fit everybody is the most significant thing.

I promise that if I am elected as parliamentarian at DVC, I will always follow the heart of the majority and do whatever I can to ensure the current regulations will be enacted most appropriately.
Hello Vikings! My name is Steven Dominic Sahar, a second-semester international student majoring in Computer Science. 2020 has certainly been a weird year for all of us, especially a freshman like myself – taking classes at a college I have never stepped foot before. School events play a big role in a student’s life, and unfortunately, some of us hadn’t had the opportunity to experience it. This knowledge has fueled my determination to take on the role of the Director of Activities. To fulfill this position, I aspire to provide the whole student body with the most astounding events and experiences of our DVC life.

To achieve this, I have a few goals in mind. Firstly, I would continue the tradition of hosting Earth Day, Welcome Week, Diversity Day, Halloween Festival, and Free Produce Market. Secondly, organizing events that bridge the gaps and promote cultural understanding between students of different backgrounds, which includes domestic and international students. Lastly, developing new programs and activities to address student’s inputs and concerns. Moreover, I will prioritize the student body and make myself accessible to anyone that needs my help. I am fully committed to represent the student’s voices and improve the college experience for all DVC students.

Since attending DVC, I have actively participated and taken leadership roles in various organizations. As an ASDVC senator since Fall 2020, I have served as the Secretary of Health Ad-hoc Committee, student representative of District Governance Council, student representative of RPEC Committee, and member of Budget Oversight Committee. As for clubs, I am currently the ICC representative for Phi Beta Lambda and International Social Justice Issue Club. Furthermore, I serve as the Secretary of the ICC Activities Committee, which hosted the ICC retreat where I presented a workshop. Lastly, I serve as the Manual Operations Coordinator at UC Berkeley’s Global Leadership Organization’s Interact Project. I believe these experiences have provided me with the skills and knowledge to serve as the Director of Activities. Vote for me, and together, let us make DVC a better place.
Hello everyone! My name is Hyunmin Chung, and I am an international student majoring in Computer Science. This 2021 spring semester is the second regular semester for me.

I am the founder and president of SpaceTime, a Virtual Reality Developing club, and also the founder and president of Dancing K-pop, the K-pop dance club in DVC. One thing that I may pick among the things I have learned from those experiences is the value of ‘Being Together’. By sharing what I studied with friends and receiving feedback from them, I have learned that the overall strength of our exceeds the sum of the strength of individuals.

I also worked as a teacher during this COVID-19 pandemic at an elementary school. I helped students who could not properly receive online education at home due to their personal situations. I tried to help them not only academically, but also to help them grow as members of our society.

What I really want to do in this world, and what I can really do well, is to become a leader having a good influence. I am a person who pays attention to the difficulties or pains of others and tries to give them practical help. By doing this, I want to create a more energetic community by harmonizing each of the diverse characteristics.

DVC is a college with people from diverse countries and environments with various cultures, experiences, and perspectives. I will establish a system that provides diverse practical support such as personal identity development, mentoring, and programs for social justice education to help the students achieve the dynamic growth found in active exchanges within our community.
Hi fellow DVC students! My name is Natania Wong. I am a first-year Economics student, and currently a math tutor at DVC. Born and raised in Hong Kong, I moved to the Bay Area a few years ago, enabling me to expose to various culture, and at the same time to be trilingual.

I have actively taken leadership roles since high school, where I served as an executive committee member in publicity board of Biology Club, conductor of Tri-Valley Youth Music Ensemble, and Concertmistress of school orchestra. Serving as an ASDVC senator since Fall 2020, I have worked closely with faculty members and fellow student senators as the Secretary of Budget Oversight Committee, student representative of Academic Senate, and Outreach Coordinator of Health Ad-hoc Committee. Our committee worked hand-in-hand with the college over the last semester in providing students a new telehealth program, which we offer free online medical access to students 24/7 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am confident that my experiences would enable me to serve you all as the Director of Public Relations of ASDVC. Especially under unprecedented times, I want to serve as your bridge to the college, I want to continue advocating for both our local and international students. I strive to be open-minded to all kinds of opinions, making ASDVC a place where you find comfortable and safe to express your ideas and thoughts, where you can connect with like-minded peers while exchanging opinions with different stakeholders. I hope that with your vote, we can work together in making a more welcoming campus. Please vote for me as the Director of Public Relations.