

# Application for Webb Student Government Executive Officer (EXEC)

Name: Mirabel Raphael

Current Grade: 11

Boarder or Day: Day

Student Signature Mirabel Raphael Date 2/28/23

Advisor Signature Delisa Date 2/28/23

## **Answer the following questions as completely as possible.**

Please note: These answers will be posted on the Webb Canyon Chronicle (WCC) during campaigning week.

Candidate Name:

1. What are THREE (3) goals you would devote your time to pursuing as an Executive Officer (Exec) of Stu Gov?
  - a. Responsiveness – addressing students’ concerns quickly and effectively
  - b. Student Life – help students get the most out of their experience though clear, available information
    - i. Ensure students have the knowledge and tools to plan, execute, and participate in a vibrant scene of activities and events
  - c. Transparency – promote openness about Student Government as much as possible, so students can have StuGov's actions best represent their opinions and interests
    - i. As part of this, revive the Student Government Constitution and let the student body vote on and approve it
  
2. Find and transcribe a quote that you believe best exemplifies your approach to leadership. Be sure to cite the person who is credited for the quotation. (Ex. “It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.” —Nelson Mandela)  
  
“Leadership is not a person or a position. It is a complex moral relationship between people based on trust, obligation, commitment, emotion, and a shared vision of the good.” -- Joanne Ciulla
  
3. List THREE (3) skills or qualities you possess that you would utilize in your work as an Exec.
  - a. Adaptability
  - b. Responsibility
  - c. Determination

4. According to Warren Bennis, pioneer in the field of modern Leadership Studies, “Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” In 1-2 paragraphs, describe your vision for the 2023-24 school year and how you plan to “translate” it into reality?

The 2023-2024 school year will mark the first time that the Vivian Webb School and Webb School of California classes will graduate together, and the first year with a different administrative structure with Dr. Smith as the Head of Schools. Things at Webb will change as we move through next year, and we can use this time to improve and emerge as a stronger community that is more responsive, comfortable, and overall pleasant for everyone involved. I envision the 2023-2024 school year as a year for the Webb student body to make conscious decisions about how we want our school to run.

I plan to create this better reality by promoting openness and deliberation within the school overall, and reform within student government. For example, we often repeat traditions each year without really considering if they are meaningful and make sense for our community. Through open discussions about events like Webb Idol and Webb Day, we can see if students still value these events, and perhaps create new traditions that resonate with our present rather than senselessly carrying forward the past. Within Student Government, we must focus on developing individually and as a team, maintaining strong and frequent communication, and prioritizing organization so our work can be as effective and fulfilling as possible.

5. Which of the Four Pillars of Stu Gov resonates most with you, your values, your interests, and your goals – Service, Advocacy, Joyful Engagement, or Collaboration? In one paragraph, please explain your connection with this pillar.

I connect most with the Service pillar. I believe that Webb, as a school, has the resources and the obligation to give back to the community. Currently, we are not doing enough. As we move through the year and plan events, whether as a school or in our individual leadership groups, we must consider the overall impact of the choices we make. I believe in an impact-driven decision-making process to hopefully produce the best consequences of our actions. I also hope that Student Government can lead through example to motivate students to serve not just Webb but the larger community of their own accord in meaningful ways. The service day of Dies Mulieres demonstrated the wide range of what is possible with Webb’s resources, but also that students can only get as much out of service as they are willing to give. As exec, I will ensure that Webb becomes a force of good in the wider community.

6. Senator Diane Feinstein is attributed with saying, “Ninety percent of leadership is the ability to communicate something people want.” What do you believe is the greatest desire of the student body?

Although the Webb student body is composed of individuals with very different life experiences, priorities, and desires, students mainly want their voices to be heard, especially by the administration. Over the past year, students have realized that their voices are not listened to. There are many policies and situations which do not reflect the values and experiences of our student body, and students want the school to change. For example, students want the administration to listen to their concerns about the dress code, dorm life, and day student parking and lockers. Webb needs to listen to its students and change accordingly.

7. If you were given one school day, a budget of twenty thousand dollars, and complete authority to plan a program for the entire community...
- a. What would be your goals for the day?
    - i. I hope to promote long-term positive change and create the best school experience overall for the student body. That goal is not best served by investing twenty thousand dollars in

a single day experience. I prefer to invest the money and effort that would go into planning such a day in creating a more long-lasting program, such as a service partnership that would provide recurring opportunities for students to make a difference in the community or increased support for students on campus.

- b. What would the agenda/schedule look like?
  - i. Instead, I would give everyone a writing day to take time to rest, recharge, and spend time with their friends, and maybe have a community snack in the dining hall to encourage boarders to come out of their dorms at least once. Student Government can use that day to work on long-term programs that improve the student experience.