

## Application for Webb Student Government Executive Officer (EXEC)

Name: Saira Bhagat

Current Grade: 10th

Boarder or Day: Day

Student Signature Saira Bhagat Date 03/01/23

Advisor Signature  Date 03/01/23

### **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: Saira Bhagat

1. What are THREE (3) goals you would devote your time to pursuing as an Executive Officer (Exec) of Stu Gov?

Three goals I would devote time to pursuing as an Executive Officer of Student Government are to...

- a. Increase transparency and communication between the student body, administration, and faculty.

I believe fostering a positive relationship between the student body and community would promote student involvement and engagement while also eliminating miscommunication between students and adults. Student government can improve communication and transparency on campus by sharing information about campus policies, decisions, and events. This would create more respectful and empathetic relationships and strengthen the Webb community as a whole.

- b. Promote inclusivity and respect in all aspects of the Webb community.

This is a goal that I would consistently work on and have been working on throughout my time in student government. I strongly believe that prioritizing students' needs and representing their interests lies at the core of student government's purpose. However, none of that is possible without a supportive Webb community that holds respect and inclusivity as core values. I would work on this by organizing events and workshops around these values. For example, I believe that there is a difference in the day student and boarding student experiences at Webb and would work to include more people in different activities to lessen that difference.

- c. Add strong support and mentorship relationships for students.

Webb already has a strong support system in place for its students; however, I have many ideas on how to strengthen and add to that system. One way to do that would be to establish a mentorship program with alumni and seniors mentoring younger students. The focus of this program would be to support the students in college

guidance, summer program opportunities, and other skills needed for life after high school early on. I believe this would lower anxiety surrounding those topics and hopefully reduce competitive tension in the Webb community.

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)

“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.” — Dolly Parton

3. List THREE (3) skills or qualities you possess that you would utilize in your work as an Exec.
  - a. Accountability
  - b. Engagement/Enthusiasm
  - c. Creativity

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?

My vision for the 2023-24 school year is to continue to create an inclusive and collaborative learning environment that fosters growth and success for all students. A student body full of school spirit that enjoys participating in community activities is what I would strive to make a reality at Webb. To translate this vision into reality, I would first assess the needs and goals of the school community by talking to members of the student body, faculty, and staff. Next, I would talk to the deans and fellow executives to collaborate and create a plan that would turn that vision into a reality. This plan would involve organizing relevant and engaging events, creating more opportunities for student voices to be heard, collaborating with other leadership groups on campus, and offering support to people who need it. I would also prioritize preparing the student body for the schools merging and understanding what students need as the school makes that transition. Overall, I would strive to create a school culture that values continuous improvement, student success, and empathy.

Additionally, I believe that in order to best address the needs of the student body and the Webb community as a whole, my vision for next year cannot be rigid and uncompromising. To constantly promote engagement, my vision needs to evolve and change as the members of our community learn and grow. In conclusion, my vision for next year would be to continue to implement the values important to the Webb community, but also to promote advocacy and growth by adapting my visualization to what the community needs at any given time.

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.

While all Four Pillars are essential to a successful and effective Student Government, the pillar I resonate with the most is Joyful Engagement. To me, Joyful Engagement is about creating a fun and inclusive environment on campus that encourages students to be present and passionate. It resonates with me because I believe that for any engagement to be long-term, consistent, and inspire the student body to bring about change and growth, it is important that the community is engaged passionately. Once people are engaged and truly enjoy being a part of the community is when they feel encouraged and empowered to advocate, serve, and collaborate. In my personal experience, being enthusiastic about something has always prevented me from feeling burnt out and losing ambition. Joyful Engagement also relates to my goals because part of my vision for Webb involves organizing events and activities that bring students together, promote school spirit, and continue fostering a sense of community for everyone.

6. Senator Dianne 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?

The student body desires many things, from policies to make their day-to-day lives more comfortable to unrealistic things like no homework; however, I believe that the greatest desire of the student body is to have a memorable high school experience with no regrets. Everyone has seen the portrayal of high school in the media and I believe the student body wants to experience high school similar to that. That includes everyone feeling a sense of belonging in the community, creating meaningful relationships, getting a high-quality education, and most importantly, having fun. Above all, I believe the student body desires more opportunities to embrace each moment without the fear of judgment and create their ideal high school experience.

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?
  - b. What would the agenda/schedule look like?

A giant carnival centered around food and games, called Cultural Appreciation Day, is what I would plan if I was given one school day, a budget of twenty thousand dollars, and complete authority to plan a program for the entire community. Cultural Appreciation Day would be a student and affinity group run event centered around the Webb community sharing the diverse range of cultures it represents. Through cultural food, games, and expression (ex. clothes), students would set up booths for their peers to visit. Each booth would be dedicated to a culture, country, or affinity group as they would each distribute food that they believe represents them to the Webb community. Food is something that brings people together and I believe that tasting food from other cultures will form deeper connections and prompt more respectfulness at Webb. It would also be a chance for students to learn about and bond with faculty and staff members that share their culture. Lastly, it will remind students of the strong support systems they have at Webb.

My agenda would be to start early in the morning at 8:30am by having a quick keynote speech about the importance of cultural appreciation, followed by an introduction to Cultural Appreciation Day. Afterwards, students would break up into groups based on culture, country, or affinity that they select with the help of faculty and staff members. Each group will need at least one faculty or staff member. By 10am, each group would decide what food they want to make and the ingredients they need. The money will go to ingredients and decorations. Anything left will be donated to a charity of the student body's choosing. While members of the community are out buying the supplies, everyone else would go up to the gym and start decorating their booths with previously bought supplies. Each group would have the option of including games or other elements into their booth. When the ingredients are bought, students can designate people to go with a faculty or staff member to their chosen location to prepare and cook the food. They will need to make enough for around 400 people. The carnival will run from 2:30-5pm and students will have the opportunity to help run their booth, visit other booths, and enjoy the delicious food prepared by everyone.