Good Evening Senate, Executives, and Staff:

My name is Josephine Ampaw and I am your elected Student Advocate General for the Office of the Student Advocate in Associated Students.

The mission of my office is to: facilitate open and honest communication between students and the University by providing free and confidential peer support advice and assistance to any student, student organization, or student group involved in a dispute with the University or any other entity within the University community. All staff members of the OSA shall advocate for ANY student requesting the services of the OSA. It is the responsibility of the OSA to give students the tools and information necessary to assist and aid them to either address their situation individually, or to be assisted by an OSA staff member. In addition, the OSA shall promote students’ rights as well as work to change and challenge policies of the University on behalf of the students of UCSB.

The Office of the Student Advocate envisions,for the 2016-2017 academic year, every UCSB student, campus organization, and community group understanding the policies, procedures, and codes for the University by providing safe and private spaces for students to heal along with creating working environments that are learning spaces and that are stress free for any student regardless of their identity.

My staff is made up of 20 UCSB undergraduates from every part of campus. I have 8 caseworkers, 6 community organizers, 1 director of public relations, 2 deputy chiefs, 1 policy analyst, and 1 chief of staff. They all assist me in helping students individually and corporately. I hope that you all will get a chance to meet with them this year.  We have finalized the office hours and I am passing around a copy so that you all know when you can see my staff members for any assistance.

Over this past week, the caseworkers in the Office of the Student Advocate have continued to work on the cases that they received and began a few new cases. They are also working on workshops based on their division and emphasis.

The Academic caseworkers are working on a workshop that would educate students on plagiarism as we approach midterms. For the Academic workshops, there will be one s space on campus for students to be informed, receive testing materials, and to have a quiet study space.

The Social Conduct caseworkers are working on workshops that are focused on Halloween. As many of you know, this holiday is celebrated widely throughout Isla Vista and on campus, so these caseworkers will be informing and advising students on basic knowledge concerning Halloween in this community.  Like last year, the workshop is called I Scream Rights! And will be occurring in multiple residence halls.

The Housing caseworkers are hosting workshops that  will be focusing on the services that the office can provide for housing and most recently broken housing policies.

The Public Interest caseworkers are working on an Identity week that will be occuring from January 16-January 19, 2017. This week of events will be made up of town halls, workshops, teach ins, a large scale multicultural culture show, and a large potluck in the hub. It will hopefully create spaces for students to learn, collaborate, and find ways to positively change and challenge  the policies of the University.

The community organizers and External Deputy Chief of staff  have begun to advertise to different organizations about the services that they provide and are bringing in clients to work with. They are also assisting the caseworkers with their workshops and events.

I am passing around the proposals that they have submitted to explain what the staff wants to do and what they need from me.

My chief of staff  is working with a few caseworkers on a databasing project. The report will be presented at the end of the quarter by my policy analyst and chief of staff.

At the Associated Students Fall Assembly, executives, members, and chairs of boards, commissions and units, came together to discuss the current state of the association along with what we can do better during this upcoming year. During this time, we explained the most recent org chart, we discussed the ways by which we can communicate with each other internally and externally. We went through Vision 2020, which is the strategic plan for the entire association. We then went through how the each aspect that the senators/BCUs do affect and fit into the executive roles. During this time, we talked about critical issues that we saw in AS like: the recruitment and retention of students  and the transition process/pass down process from year to year.

At the end of the day, we all picked a specific topic that we felt that we would work on and report on later on in the quarter.I would like to pass out a few copies of the proposalI have made.   I selected to discuss and report on how we can change the elections culture. In the proposal I have made, I argue that the negativity that comes into the association stems from the spring elections. I talk about how important it is to propose a sense of healthy competitiveness and ways that  candidates can collaborate and work together to better the experiences of all students.  I know I have given you all a great deal of paperwork, but I feel that it is important for me to be as transparent with you as I can in  everything that students pay me and my staff to do. I appreciate you all giving me your undivided attention and would love to see you all in my office hours.