Good Evening Senate, Executives, Staff, and Students:

My name is Grecia Martinez and I am a fourth year studying History of Public Policy and Labor Studies here at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Before I delve into the office, I hope to give you all a brief introduction to who I am. I am a Mexican American, first- generation college student from East Side San Jose. My family, like many other Student Advocate Generals before me, consists of people who have overcome the societal structures of colonization, racism, and dehumanization as immigrants to this country. I want to note that I would not be here if not for the staff of this association. Through my roles as SCORE board member and former collegiate senator, people like Aaron Jones, LaDonte King, Marisela Marquez, and Holly Mayes have inspired me as role models. They have showed me what a real leader looks like. I would also like to recognize former Student Advocate Generals who have been honorable mentors and friends throughout this time. Yoel Haile, Joseline Garcia, and Josephine Ampaw saw my potential and have been amazing support systems as they continue to bless me with their guidance in this role.

I promise as your Student Advocate General to respect you all, staff, fellow executives, and students by voicing my concerns honestly and respectfully, by being knowledgeable about the positions that I hold and the space that I fill in this association, and by being a daily service that enthusiastically cares for students and organizations regardless of their situation or affiliation. I promise to give credit where credit is due and to keep an open mind in every situation. I promise to care for the wellbeing of the students on this campus and to be a nonpartisan voice. The Legal Code of Associated Students states that the Office of the Student Advocate shall: “facilitate open and honest communication between students and the University by providing  free and confidential 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 members. 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 staff that I have hired and I plan on fulfilling this statement in legal code by holding weekly office hours for the Office of the Student Advocate. I am personally so excited to be working with them over this next year.

Over the last few weeks, I have initiated introductory conversations with the Chancellor, (Henry Yang), the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (Margaret Klawunn), the Title IX Director (Ariana Alvarez), the CARE Director (Briana Conway), Office of Judicial Affairs Director (Joaquin Becerra), Housing Judicial Affairs Director (Kristen Burnett), and the OMBUDS Manager (Megan Debrito). Through these conversations, we have began discussions to create a formal OSA intake process for cases that would align with the work of Title IX and CARE. Addiionally, we hope to continue working more closely to find ways in which OSA complement the valuable work of these offices; some of the things we have discussed are figuring out ways to make these reporting processes, next step procedures, and alternative resources more well known to students

The Office of the Student Advocate will be having their first meeting this Friday morning to more closely shape our office and individual goals for this school year. I am currently crafting a manual to distribute to the office staff that will consist of the office mission, staff directory, and University documents such as the newly updated version of the UCSB Implementing and Response Procedures for the Reported Student Violations of the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. This manual will be updated in 2019 to include the finalized changes to the UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy. If any senators are interested in learning about the office or learning more about these policies, a copy will be available for your use in my office once it's completed.

Before I finish my executive report, I’m going to take this time to give credit to the person who originally wrote. Like much of this executive report, the contents and framework crucial to the functionality + sucess of  the OSA are because f the guiding documents left behinf by formal SAG, Josephine Ampaw. OSA started off 10 years ago as a small office, but has evolved over the years to expand its services. Throughout the years, it has been clear that each SAG has ran the office extremely different than the one before, making growth and consistency difficult for OSA. Josephine has been one of the only SAGS to outline such foundations hopes that they will better the office for years to come. As we think about the work former student leaders left behind to benefit Associated Students for years beyond their term, I encourage you all to think about what kind of legacy you want to leave by the end of your terms.

To close off, I am going to pass on some finals words of wisdom Josephine asked me to pass on. As you all begin your work in these positions, remember to appreciate and value the advice of  your advisors Marisela and LaDonte. Josephine identifies them as her biggest allies during this time and wants to highlight the impact of their mentorship. Their guidance extended beyond this campus and she would not be in her current path to gaining her Masters without them.