"To UCSB students:
Hello everyone, I know that the events during the past few weeks have
deeply affected many of us. I wanted to take some time to speak from my
heart about what we are all experiencing, both from my experience as a
woman of color on this campus and also as your External Vice President.
As a woman of color and as someone who’s been observing the past events
in our country, I am scared of what Ben Shapiro’s dialogue will entail
for our campus. This isn’t free speech, it’s hate speech, and what we’ve
clearly seen recently is that hate speech can and will incite violence.
What people don’t realize is that Santa Barbara County is predominantly
conservative, and the possibility of outside people coming to our campus
is, in my opinion, is extremely dangerous to certain communities. With
the rhetoric and dialogue that is circulating our country right now, I
think it’s absolutely wrong to bring such a controversial speaker on
campus. I stand in solidarity with the communities that feel threatened
by this speaker, and I will do everything within my abilities to make
sure you all feel safe on this campus.
As EVPSA, I’ll say it clearly and unequivocally: Our students fees
should NEVER go to people or events that contribute to the
marginalization of people and communities. That is something I stand by
completely. And this is something I challenge Finance and Business to
address: comprehensive financial reform and transparency. And this
reform can be done in establishing clear guidelines that are set in
Regental Policy on this. In the Regental Policy, specifically Policies
Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students (PACAOS), in
clause 86.30 it states that there is a case of viewpoint neutrality, but
there are no specific guidelines that establish this statement. Right
now the terms are extremely open-ended, and they obviously need set
guidelines that determine what makes an event legitimate or not to be
funded by student fees. What we need is regental change; I will be
working with the access and power that I have to make sure that that is
established. But in my own power as an executive of ASUCSB, I want to
ensure that I do everything in my jurisdiction to empower communities
and ensure that they have the resources to amplify their voices. I ask
senators to join me in this process, and with their access to resources
on campus and my access to the state-wide policy level, we can come
forward with a list of guidelines to add to regental policy.
These are hard and trying times. I know as students, individuals, and
leaders, we are all disappointed in our community and country. When they
say UCSB is a microcosm of the country, I’d like to think that’s true,
with all the diverse representation of communities all over campus. But
election night’s results proved to me that UCSB has much more potential
than what our country has shown. So in our own space that we have
control over, let’s at least try to establish an atmosphere of love and
acceptance, so we can move forward with a plan that can better the lives
of marginalized communities. Let’s increase talks of policy change when
something affects our peers in a negative manner. Because if even if our
efforts are not heard nationally, we can still start organizing and
changing in our community where we still can.
Thank you,
Neha Nayak

Random Updates:

Tuition Rollback: With the tuition freeze that is ending by this year,
UCSA is asking all campuses to plan a pre-emptive action to bring
awareness to the increase at hand. The EVPSA office is working with
Student Activist Network to plan a walk out of classes on Nov. 21.

Working to get the Federal Advocacy program groundwork established."