Good Evening Senate, Executives, Staff and Students:

My name is Josephine Ampaw and I am fourth year studying Feminist Studies and History 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 am. I am a Ghanaian American woman who grew up in Inglewood and Anaheim, California. My family consists of people who have overcome the societal structures of colonization, civil war, apartheid, dehumanization, and racism. One person that I would like to tell you about is my grandmother, Angelina (Maame Akua) Afriyie. She was an influential businesswoman of her time and by far my biggest inspiration. She worked as an African market woman, selling food in her stores and on the roads of Southern Ghana. I speak of her today because she was a leader in her community and demanded respect at all times.

I, like my grandmother, demand respect from you all as a black person, a woman, a student, and lastly as your Student Advocate General. My staff demands your respect as people, students, and lastly as chiefs of staff,policy analysts, caseworkers, community organizers, and directors of public relations.

In the past, I have seen the way in which past Senates have communicated and treated their Student Advocate General. From observing this as a student at UCSB and as a staff member in the Office of the Student Advocate, I demand that you treat me with dignity, humanity, and respect as your Student Advocate General in this space, as we walk the halls of this campus, and as we work in our offices. Speaking in this space by myself as the first black woman in this position is incredible and a blessing. The work of my staff and I will continue and expand on the ten year legacy of this office. I demand that their work be respected, heard, and supported. I want to recognize all of the people who have come before me and worked with me, those who made it possible for me to get this position and even be able to hire the amazing staff I have.

I would not be here if not for the staff of this association. As Deputy Chief, people like Aaron Jones, LaDonte King, and Marisela Marquez inspired me as role models. They showed me what a real leader looks like. I would also like to Yoel Haile. He was a Student Advocate General for this Association for the 2012-2013 academic year. He is a mentor of mine and a great friend. I also like to thank the 2015-2016 Office of the Student Advocate. They saw my potential and it was a blessing to have my first experience in this association with them. I also have to thank my predecessors, Joseline Garcia, Paola De La Cruz, Jimmy Villarreal, Kimia Hashieman and Mohsin Mirza, for encouraging me throughout the year and always been a source of support and advice. Lastly, I would like to thank my family and ancestors. The power from their fight in Africa and the United States is the very reason why I can stand at this podium today.

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 position 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 to 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 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.”

(This is on page 67 of the 2015-2016 Legal Code of Associated Students and on page 73 of the 2016-2017 Legal Code of Associated Students.)

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.

The chief and deputy chiefs will be the individuals who manage the day-to-day needs of the office along with representing me and the office to the University administration when I am unable to be there. They will act as a direct knowledgeable resource for the staff and will be sure that we are fulfilling our strategic plan.

The policy analyst that I have hired will take the information acquired from the cases and organizing and apply it to changes that need to be made to University policy. This individual will be the direct person who will address this body along with the University administration when I am not able to.

The caseworkers will talk to students about the situations that they are in and these caseworkers will do research and be knowledgeable in the Student Code of Conduct, Housing Policy, and Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy, along with other policies of the university.

The community organizers will work with organizations who seek to demand and lobby the Chancellor and Administration of this institution by knowing policy concerning organizations on this campus. Rather than making decisions on behalf of any given community, they will help settle disputes with the university.

I would now like to tell you who I have hired to do this important work.

My staff consists of a diverse group of students. I have hired students from the Hillel, the Black Student Union, the Pan African Student Union, Mock Trial, the College Republicans, APIPA, and many more organizations on this campus. The staff of this office serves to work with students regardless of race, gender, sexuality, age, class, or political affliation.

I felt that I needed a Chief of Staff that was strong, reliable, intelligent, and knew the structure of Associated Students. After examining the people that I knew inside and outside of the association, I felt that Nawar Nemeh, a third year History of Public Policy major, was the best choice for this position. In the little time that I have been working with him, he has already exhibited the qualities of a great leader and amazing Chief of Staff for the Office of the Student Advocate.

Along with a Chief of Staff, I needed to decide who these two deputy chiefs would be. I decided to hire Ladijah Corder, a fourth year Political Science and Black Studies double major as my External Deputy Chief of Staff because of her extensive organizing and training experience as well as her care and compassion for communities on campus. She continues to serve as one of the chairs of the Black Student Union and has worked for many departments on campus, such as The Office of Student Life. Her extensive experience makes her the best individual for this position.

I decided to hire Catt Phan, a third year Global Studies major, as my Internal Deputy Chief of Staff because of her experience under the tenth Office of the Student Advocate (2015-2016) as a Social Conduct caseworker along with being my campaign manager during the election. She has exhibited the qualities needed to lead a team of caseworkers at a time in UCSB history where there needs to be knowledgeable support for students. She shows this through her character along with her work in organizations like Take Back the Night.

I, Josephine Ampaw, Student Advocate General in Associated Students UCSB along with my Chief of Staff, Internal Deputy Chief of Staff, and External Deputy Chief of Staff have selected 8 caseworkers. 6 community organizers,1 policy analyst and 1 director of public relations.

The Director of Public Relations for the Office of the Student Advocate is:[Corniche Thompson](https://www.facebook.com/corniche.thompson).

The Policy Analyst for the Office of the Student Advocate is: Saxon Cropper.

Under the direct leadership of [Ladijah Corder](https://www.facebook.com/ladijah.corder),the External Deputy Chief of Staff, along with the other chiefs and Student Advocate General, the leadership of this staff have selected the following individuals to be COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS for the AS Office of the Student Advocate. The names are as follows(in alphabetical order):

[Marla Arciniega](https://www.facebook.com/marla.arciniega.1)

[Angelica Goetzen](https://www.facebook.com/angelica.goetzen)

[Leanna Lugo](https://www.facebook.com/leaaaannnnaaaaaaaa)

[Veronica Marie Mandujano](https://www.facebook.com/veronica.m.mandujano)

[Angela Subido](https://www.facebook.com/angela.subido)

Edan Tessema

Under the direct leadership of [Catt Phan](https://www.facebook.com/catt.the.marvelous),the Internal Deputy Chief of Staff, along with the other chiefs and Student Advocate General, the leadership of this staff have selected the following individuals to be CASEWORKERS for the AS Office of the Student Advocate. The names are as follows(in alphabetical order):

[Shriyá Bahri](https://www.facebook.com/shriya.bahri)

[Elizabeth Gillett](https://www.facebook.com/elizabeth.gillett1)

[Roshni Sopariwalla](https://www.facebook.com/roshni.sopariwalla)

[Amy Koo](https://www.facebook.com/amy.koo.97)

[Brooke Kopel](https://www.facebook.com/brooke.kopel)

[Alan Moore](https://www.facebook.com/alan.moore.921)

[Emily Williams](https://www.facebook.com/emily.williams.1800)

[Kalina White](https://www.facebook.com/kalina.white.98)

I would again like to congratulate the individuals selected. I am personally so excited to be working with them.

Over the course of the summer, I met with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs(Margaret Klawunn) and her chief of Staff(Deborah), the Title IX Director(Ariana Alvarez), members of the UCPD(Matthew Bowman) and Resource Deputy James McKarrell. I also introduced myself to the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs(Debbie Fleming), the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Housing(Willie Brown) and a Housing Judical Affairs Officer and Restorative Justice Coordinator (Joaquin Becerra) along with the Judicial Affairs Director(Sandra Vasquez). I also did my best to have meetings with students who have brought positive change on campus. I met with Alejandra Melgoza(former Off Campus Senator) to start conversations about involving students in campus activism. I hope to continue the conversations that I started with more students and staff in the coming year.

Before I end my speech, I would like to briefly explain my strategic plan. For the upcoming year, I created a strategic plan for the Office based on what I have learned leading in an organization called The Impact Movement. I explain the history of the office in the introduction, I lay out what each member of my staff will be doing, along with providing a budget and showing an actual plan for the office that lists the tactics, themes, goals, current realities, dreams, etc. Please take time after this meeting to look over it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

The last thing I would like to share is a quote by the first Prime Minister Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah. He spoke these powerful words on the day that Ghana received independence from their colonizer, Britain.

He said,”We have done with the battle and we again re-dedicate ourselves in the struggle to emancipate other countries in Africa, for our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent.”

When Nkrumah said these words, he was making a point that I believe is very applicable to the Office of the Student Advocate. When we help one student, or one organization, that is a win for the student, the community and for the office. However, one thing I hope to emphasize in this office is that their work is not done when they take on one case, or make a poster, or host a workshop, or meet with community leaders. The staff’s job is complete when there is an understanding that all students are cared for individually or corporately. I hope this quote and idea can be passed on to every executive office, every senator, and every student.

I am excited to tell you about the amazing work that this staff is doing internally and externally. I am so excited for what this year has in store. Thank you for listening.