



## Fall 2017 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2017 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apouse@gmail.com](mailto:president.apouse@gmail.com) and cc webmaster.apouse@gmail.com .

*Election Day:* Candidates for President and Pledgemaster will have three minutes to give their speeches. Candidates for all other positions will have two minutes.

You may present one slide per position you run for at the time of your speech. Slides are due by **SUNDAY, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM** to [president.apouse@gmail.com](mailto:president.apouse@gmail.com). You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Vanessa Vucinic

Year: 4<sup>th</sup> year

Major: Urban Studies and Planning

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Eta (Fall 2015)

**Please mark which elected position(s) you are running for with an X:**

- ☒ [ x] President
- ☐ [ ] Pledgemaster
- ☐ [ ] VP of Service
- ☐ [ ] VP of Membership
- ☐ [ ] VP of Fellowship
- ☐ [ ] VP of Finance
- ☐ [ ] VP of Communications
- ☐ [ ] Fundraising Chair
- ☐ [ ] IC Chair

### PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

## **1. What is your vision for APO?**

I see an incredible amount of potential in APO. Two years ago when I pledged APO, I heard about what it used to be: a place where cliques were rampant and many people felt excluded if they weren't exactly "alike" (in many different meanings of the word) the existing active body of APO. When I pledged, I found a solid group of friends both in my pledge class and the chapter as a whole with similar interests and ideals. Yet still, I watched many of my pledge brothers fall away from APO rather quickly. Many people have reasons for wanting or needing to be less involved in the org, however after speaking with some of these brothers, it became evident there was a trend. The most common reasons for leaving were because of feeling excluded, not being able to afford it, or the feeling that the organization prioritized the social aspect over the service aspect.

These experiences have caused me to form a vision for APO based on inclusivity, understanding, and dedication to the community. I see an APO where everyone feels welcome- no matter one's background, age, race, interests, or how they identify. I also see APO as a campus leader in service; an organization that other organizations call on when they want to create a service event or help the community in some way. I believe that APO is in a position to create and lead significant change on campus.

## **2. Why do you want the position(s) you are running for?**

This spring, a large portion of our active body will be graduating and moving on from APO- leaving the chapter in a period of transition and therefore an ideal place to bring about change in culture and procedure. I want to be President of Alpha Kappa because I believe I am the best candidate to lead the chapter through this period of change. I have a significant amount of leadership experience and am very familiar with how the chapter runs after spending a full academic year on the executive committee and being involved with pairings and various other processes. After speaking with previous presidents and fraternity leadership, I believe I have the knowledge to perform successful oversight of the organization and serve as an advisor with the knowledge and resources to provide guidance and solve problems when they arise.

From a personal standpoint, I want to be President of AK because I love the chapter and feel significantly invested in its future. I realize that other commitments have not allowed me to be very active in APO this semester; however, this should not reflect a lack of care or interest in the well being of AK. Quite the opposite, actually- I am the type of person to commit myself 100% to any endeavor I may choose to undertake. Knowing that because of my internship requirement and classwork difficulty I would not be able to devote myself to APO, I chose to go associate and commit myself to being successful in my other pursuits until I became able to recommit to the chapter. I want this position now because I know I am ready

for the commitment and am prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty in order to make sure Fall 2017 is a successful semester.

**3. What are your goals for the position(s)?**

One of my goals as president is to lead an executive committee united under one common vision and sense of direction as opposed to each member feeling somewhat alone and left to their own devices. I plan to start accomplishing this by holding a well-planned excomm retreat with activities intended to unite us and bring us closer as a group. Ultimately, I hope to take this semester to focus on Service to the Campus. Another of my goals is to create more events partnering with other student organizations in order to increase our visibility and expose us to different groups of students that may not have heard of us before- similar to the week of service held this past semester. I have already been in contact with members of USG, for example, who are excited about the possibility of partnerships. I also have connections to members in various other organizations and look forward to diversifying the active body and overall membership experience in APO.

One of the most significant goals I have for Alpha Kappa is protecting the long-term growth of the chapter. As the active body may be aware, we were recently stripped of our fraternity status by the university. After researching how we can avoid trouble in the future and understanding what we can do to reclassify ourselves, I believe it may be feasible to create a Professional Fraternity Council- similar to the council that runs the Multicultural Greek Council. I have been in contact with the founder of this council and believe I have what it takes to create and chair this council- with APO at its head.

**4. What new ideas can you bring to the position and organization as a whole? Please provide examples.**

In the past, the chapter has discussed donating some of our reserve money to a charity or worthy cause. After speaking with faculty such as Lavonna Lewis, I believe we can use some of this money to help kick start the campus' first organization dedicated to representation and ally-ship within the community of differently-abled students. There is currently no forum or gathering place for students with disabilities to connect or have their voices heard by the university.

As President, I would also hope to serve as a resource to the rest of the executive committee. For example, as rush may be overwhelmed during the beginning of the semester, I am willing to take on equal responsibility to ensure everything runs smoothly. As any position needs assistance, I plan to be available to offer it weekly.

Based off mid-semester review feedback from the past three semesters, I also see budget transparency as a significant issue. Many active members of the chapter don't clearly understand where their money is going or how it is being spent. Therefore, instead of blindly

voting on the budget, I plan to spend 10 minutes at the first GBM with the VPs of Finance walking the chapter through the process, where changes have been made and where there is room for input.

As our driver's reimbursement system currently stands, a set number of dollars is allocated to driving regardless of the amount of miles driven per semester. While this may be easier to calculate from the beginning, I believe our rate should be calculated on a per mile basis so that payment is fair and standard between semesters- which it has not been in the past.

Ultimately, as President I believe what is required of me is to be a fair, just and dedicated leader. I know I can be that on a daily basis and hope to emulate the cardinal principles in everything I do.

**5. What relevant experience, if any, have you had working in committees or other organizations for the position(s) you are running for? Please be specific.**

In the past, I have served as both a Co-Philanthropy Chair and VP of Membership for the chapter. As Co-Philanthropy Chair, I became familiar with the various organizations our chapter works with on a weekly basis and executed a successful KEDS. As VP of Membership, I led the membership committee through a full revision process of the Chapter Bylaws, implemented more diverse events, worked hard to enhance the active member experience by staying in constant communication and relaying feedback to the executive committee, and created back-end structural change in order to make the future VP's of Membership job easier. Additionally, I served as a voting delegate at the section business meeting during sectionals, which allowed me to become familiar with our new Section 1 Chair, understand new initiatives taking place within our section, region, and nationally, and become familiar with resources available to our chapter to improve membership and our chapter as a whole.

Outside of APO, in high school I was President of a Christian outreach organization called Youth Alive for 2 years, where I was responsible for planning and executing several small scale service events and one large community outreach event, working with members on an individual basis to further their growth and development, and managing an executive committee of three people. Last academic year, I served as Community Outreach Chair representing Cardinal Gardens Building Government, where I worked with my advisor to further develop my teamwork skills and become a more effective member of the building government. Within Residential Student Government I have been able to forge relationships with people from other organizations also passionate about service and giving back to the L.A. community, which could be useful for collaborative membership events in the future. I also held a marketing internship last year where I was responsible for coordinating logistics for several professional events and became skilled at quickly accomplishing administrative tasks. As Student Coordinator for an event manager at USC's Office of Cultural Relations and University Events (CRUE), I managed a team of 13 students on game days last semester and was awarded a seat in DPS and DFS' Command Center, which allowed me to experience

working under high pressure situations and manage the wants and needs of both my student workers and my superiors.

**6. What other time commitments will you have next semester (i.e. other student organizations, work, research, etc.)? How do you plan to balance APO executive board duties with those commitments?**

Next semester, I will continue my job as Student Coordinator for the CRUE office. I have managed this responsibility for two years now and do not foresee it becoming an issue next semester. I will also be interning one day a week from 9-5 at City Hall, which will not affect my ability to effectively run the organization.