



## Fall 2016 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2016 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com) and cc webmaster.apousc@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 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM** to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@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: Junior (will be senior Fall 2016)

Major: Policy, Planning and Development

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

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

My vision for APO is to make our chapter, Alpha Kappa, a place where every single member truly feels welcome-which is no small feat. There are currently means in place in order to accomplish this vision: namely the big brother program, membership events intended to promote both personal growth and closer relationship among brothers, all requirements of the pledging program, and fellowship events intended to foster friendship among brothers. I believe that through targeted membership events, an enhancement of the membership program all together and the honest effort of all members of the chapter, we can achieve this vision and reach an even greater portion of the populations represented in the fraternity's four service areas: the fraternity, campus, community and nation.

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

I am running for VP of Membership because I truly believe I am the best candidate for the position. Throughout my time in APO, I have made it a goal to take advantage of every opportunity offered to me. This is made evident not only through my pursuit and achievement of an appointed board position immediately following pledging, but also by this application. As Philanthropy Co-Chair, I made it a goal of mine to explore different types of service beyond what I was comfortable with and to generally grow within that cardinal principle. As VP of Membership, I would hope to both grow as a leader and a friend, and to help others grow as well. I am willing to dedicate as much time as need be to make sure fall semester's membership program is effective and runs smoothly, and all members of Alpha Kappa are as satisfied with their APO experience as humanly possible.

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

One of my main goals I would like to accomplish as VP of Membership during the fall is the increase of our chapter's current member retention rate. After calculating a ratio based on the amount of active members vs. incoming pledges each semester (according to the membership survey and previous master doc data), I will be able to determine our exact membership retention rate. To combat a low rate, I plan on working with the coordinators of (and attending if possible July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>) APO Membership Academy. This weekend long training course is designed, according to the national website, to help chapters create a retention plan, learn how to deal with non-performers within a given chapter, techniques to enhance rush and the quality of rushees, and many more.

<http://www.apo.org/leadershipdevelopment/membershipacademyuniversities/membershipacademy/membershipacademy>

Additionally, I plan to improve the quality and organization of data from previous semesters and onward by creating metrics, which can be used by all future VPs of Membership, in

order to set goals regarding issues like low membership retention and an overall lack of requirement completion. To create these metrics, I will work with my statistics TA.

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

While it may no longer be possible to add such a stipulation into our chapter's bylaws in Town Hall, as VP of Membership I would vow to not take place in the big brother program- unless extenuating circumstances should call for such participation. I would abstain from participation in this program in order to protect the assumed neutrality of the big/little pairing process and to rid brothers of any speculation regarding the authenticity of the process, which has been an issue in previous semesters.

I also plan to institute an awards/recognition program within the chapter, beyond just superlatives. I believe many members go above and beyond expectations and should be recognized and rewarded for such. Awards could come in the form of a certificate, pin, or some other gift to be determined at a later date with the Co-VPs of Finance.

Additionally, it is already stipulated in our chapter bylaws that VP of Membership is required to "attend all Pledge meetings and assist the Pledge Master in ensuring the success of the Pledge education program." While I can do nothing to rectify the previous lack of enforcement of this clause, I can set precedent for future semesters by doing such- as well as continuing the requirement pledge membership points and working with the Pledgemaster to play a more active role in the pledging program. I also plan on creating a post-pledging program to aid with membership retention. This program would be created by pledge team and sent to our section chair for review.

In addition to the aforementioned, I plan to increase the amount of social awareness and educational events available to our members. I believe one of the greatest goals this organization should strive to achieve is the goal of creating more culturally aware and better-prepared members of both the fraternity and society as a whole, should any trying situation occur.

I also believe that in combination with membership academy, membership in APO should carry more benefits in order to entice members to stay. It has been mentioned that doing the same activities every semester can get stale for many. I would hope to work with the VP of Fellowship and Co-VPs of Finance to not only change and enhance the events we do currently, but also create more events (at least one) funded by the chapter and exclusive to only active members and pledges (associates can attend by paying a fee). For example, maybe a weekend trip to Big Bear or a day trip to six flags.

**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.**

I will have actively served on the executive committee of the chapter for one full semester by fall of 2016. 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. Currently, I serve as Community Outreach Chair representing Cardinal Gardens Building Government, where I have 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.

**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?**

In addition to active membership in Alpha Kappa next semester, I will be a student coordinator for the campaign event manager in the office I work. My schedule is very flexible, however, therefore it should not interfere with the time commitment necessary to successfully perform the duties of VP of Membership. I plan to make my commitment to the executive board and all active members of the fraternity a high priority.