



Fall 2018 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 16th at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to 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 16th at 11:59 PM** to president.apouse@gmail.com. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Grace Camia

Year: Sophomore (Rising Junior)

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Iota (Fall 2016)

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?

Overall, my vision for Alpha Phi Omega is centered around the creation of a cohesive community of individuals. Such a community should aim to support its members in all their endeavors, both pertaining to and outside the chapter. Additionally, the chapter should aim to go beyond merely serving the community, but should attempt to engage with it as well. In application, engagement could be as simple as utilizing public transportation to attend events and as involved as attending council meetings within the district.

Within the context of the University of Southern California as a whole, Alpha Phi Omega has the potential for great growth. Each semester, we catalogue an impressive number of community service hours throughout the surrounding area and have philanthropy chairs who put in the time and effort to create amazing events of their own. Despite this, the target population is limited. Implementing means of communication with other organizations on campus could greatly enhance the capabilities of our chapter to become involved in more initiatives as well as to strengthen our pre-existing ones. It is Membership, as a position, that could be tasked with the endeavor of formulating such correspondences and relationships to enable other Excomm positions to benefit and grow from such developments as well.

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

Co-VP of membership is a position that finds itself at the intersection of many responsibilities within the chapter. It is predominantly for this reason that I find myself not only interested, but quite invested as well. APO has the potential to provide members with some of the friends that they will have for a lifetime. Fellowship fosters these bonds while Membership aims to retain them. In addition, Membership has the opportunity to offer experiences in which the typical, superficial, circumstantial bonds found in collegiate settings can be surpassed. Friends made through exploration and discussion of difficult topics, such as diversity and ableism to name a few, will benefit from a depth of understanding and shared experience that is not often easily found. Also, it can be said that Membership is the direct line of communication between the general member body and the members in Excomm positions. This responsibility is not something that I regard lightly. Instead, it is viewed as a privilege to foster a community in which open discussion and consistent progression is not only desired, but expected.

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

The goals I have for the position of membership can be broken down into several components. First, I wish to reintroduce the chapter to one another. With such a heavy emphasis placed on the incoming pledge class each semester, it is difficult to promote continuous mingling and bonding amongst older members. For this reason, one of the key goals is to offer more mixers or other opportunities in which associate and active members can become more familiar with one another, in addition to incoming pledges.

Secondly, I would love to restructure some of the pre-existing initiatives that already fall under membership responsibilities. One such example would be adding more structure to the academic mentor system to ensure that all parties involved make the most of the pairing. This could be done through the submission of schedules and booking of Leavey rooms to provide a secured meeting place for the pairings.

Third, increased coordination amongst Excomm members is always a goal to strive for. Although this pertains most directly to positions that overlap with Membership in some regard, such as Alumni Liaison, SAA, and pledge team, any position that deems the support of Membership as a valued contribution should receive it in full. In regard to supporting pledge team specifically, attendance of pledge meetings by Membership VPs could be quite useful in rendering the transition from pledge to active member as smooth as possible. Family heads could also benefit from the support of Membership to reduce the stress associated with creating and running a successful DTA. One possible means of aid could include the allocation of a small budget to reduce the financial strain or limitations placed upon these individuals, especially considering they enter the role at their initiation with little knowledge of what is expected of them.

Further still, I wish to continue the recent trend of involving elements of social awareness and diversity within membership events. This can be done not only through Visions and Voices

events, but also through increased engagement with protests occurring in the neighborhoods we so frequently visit for service. In doing so, APO can establish long term commitments with members of these communities, beyond a few hours spent cleaning up or giving out meals, by fostering a new degree of understanding and emotional investment through facilitated conversations.

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

The largest shift I would like to see take effect would be the inclusion of greater communication and interaction with other organizations on campus. There is a noticeable trend in limited diversity within Alpha Phi Omega, a problem that could be ameliorated if we increased our exposure throughout the University. Additionally, there is an unexplored value that arises from having connections with other groups, including but not limited to potential financial pooling or resource exchange. Yet another issue that could be addressed through this development would be the unfortunately pressing concern of declining numbers of drivers as members of the chapter come and go. With increased focus on campus based groups and events, the proximity would solve travel concerns without hindering the diversity of events to be attended.

Secondly, but similarly important to the first issue addressed, there must be greater attention paid to members of all varieties. This includes pledges, bigs, actives who have not picked up, associates, and alumni. Several individuals have expressed feelings of exclusion or separation that come hand in hand with lowered involvement with incoming or recent pledge classes. While it is important to focus attention on the newest pledge class to create valued members of the fraternity, the subsequent seclusion of others should not be ignored. One feasible solution to address the former concern would involve the inclusion of mixers that target the associate body or events that feature members who feel to be at a distance. In doing so, it should become abundantly clear that all members, regardless of status or standing, are valued for their contributions to our chapter.

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 have held an Arts Education Management position for four years, following five years of volunteer work at the same location. In a management position, one of the first things you learn is how to appropriately resolve conflicting interests. Although I cannot boast the efficiency of someone trained in conflict resolution, it is fair to say that I have had several years of experience in working to make as many people happy as possible. In many ways, when understood at its baseline level, Membership has the same goal- to guarantee that the members of this chapter are content. Yet another of the responsibilities I have often been tasked with is public programming- creating and conducting events that attract various targeted populations. In what seems to be a direct parallel, Membership must also develop events that will excite members and promote increased involvement. Lastly, and arguably most importantly, within my position, I developed the ongoing means of feedback from event attendees, workers, and involved artists. Although such a platform already exists in APO, the value of feedback is something I have learned to greatly appreciate and will do as much as I can to properly address and institute any necessary adjustments.

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?**

My only other time commitments going into next semester will be my coursework as well as my workstudy position, which is limited to several hours per week. In effect, I believe there will be ample time to contribute to membership duties, whether that be between classes or after. Furthermore, seeing as I am running for a cooperative position, work can be evenly dispersed between both VPs. Even further still, I am running with Elizabeth Shi and it should be noted that there is no one in this world that could ever dream of disappointing that girl. In my mind, that should be assurance enough that responsibilities will be dealt with in a timely manner.