



Spring 2017 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY November 27th 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, November 27th 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: Ellice Wang

Year: Senior

Major: Biology

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Delta (Spring 2014)

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?

As someone from the AD pledge class, we old people have talked about APO changing a lot and the culture being different than when we had pledged. I think two big concerns have been our seemingly declining dedication to service and our lack of membership retention. My vision for APO is one in which people are taught to be more empathetic, more culturally aware/ aware of the different backgrounds everyone comes from, increased appreciation for service – instead of pure doing hours for hours' sake – and increased meaningful bonding between actives, associates, and pledges who don't often hangout with each other. Ultimately, the goal would be to increase the cohesiveness of our chapter's members and ensure quality bonding experiences throughout the chapter.

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

Pledgemaster:

I believe the best way to affect change on a more rapid level is through building on the pledging experience to ensure future active members better appreciate service and to ensure pledges return the next semester as actives.

Membership:

As someone who's been in APO for so many semesters and who has been active, associate, and on eboard, I want to use these experiences to better improve the experiences of every member. I want to be membership because I have heard many friends complain about the difficulty of coming back/reintegrating into APO after being less active, and I myself have experienced this difficulty.

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

Pledgemaster:

I always said I loved "making people cry" as Special Events Coordinator because it meant that everyone was comfortable enough with each other by the end of retreat to cry in front of people they haven't known that long; it is this attitude of increased bonding that I wish to bring to this position. I think what happens in most pledge classes is that certain cliques are formed and sometimes pledge class cohesiveness is compromised. As pledgemaster, I wish to build on what past PM's have done to improve the cohesiveness of the incoming class so that certain pledges don't feel excluded for being older, or living in different dorms, etc. Another goal would be to increase pledges' awareness of things that are going on on-campus, because we are also supposed to be serving our campus. I think working with Membership would be good (maybe requiring attendance to one event that talks about unique cultures) to improve the general awareness of different cultures/backgrounds/religions/inclinations of different groups of people.

Membership:

As VP of Membership, I would like to help the reintegration of associates/abroad brothers/less active actives into our general body, and also use my knowledge of what has been done in the past to help in this process/increase bonding within the general body.

Also to improve the bonding during pledge class mixers, continue the culturally “woke” events that Vanessa had planned, do more GBM activities (based on minute to win it events).

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

Pledgemaster:

- Improve cohesiveness/bonding between pledges
 - I believe the AE pledge class is a prime example of a well-bonded pledge class, so I would like to emulate what that pledge team did – through more series with pledgemaster/paunties, through “wine and cheese” night type events where a large portion of the pledge class will go over to someone’s home and maybe play board games, making food, etc.
- Improve appreciation of service
 - Ask for pledge journal entries that reflect their experiences during service events.
- Improve pledges campus awareness
 - Work with Membership to maybe host a cultural awareness night for pledges (and actives/associates who’d like to come) that talk about things that are currently going on/topics otherwise not talked about to increase openness to differences (such as the Black Lives Matter movement, discussion of sexuality/gender inclusiveness, invite Jenny/Teddy to talk about Asian American experiences they’ve talked about in CIRCLE).
- Improve comfortability (idk if this is a word) pledges have with talking to pledge team about problems
 - Continue what Sia did with the checkups on pledges part ways through the semester
 - Open my time as needed to provide safe spaces for pledges to talk to me in about any concerns they may have/reach out to them to talk to me or paunties about their concerns
- Help with passing quizzes/interview checks
 - Work with pledge e-board to create groups in which e-board members will check their group members’ binders for any errors
 - Randomized study groups that get enrichment points for studying together (also a way to bond with pledges who aren’t necessarily people you knew coming in/have already gotten close to)

Membership:

- Improve pledge class mixers:
 - Require a follow-up form, similar to the IC email, that asks pledges/actives/associated who they meet and a fact about this person before a give people a point.
 - Nag people in older pledge classes to come back/when to host these events to better suit their schedules/what kind of event they’d like to see

- Continue USC campus events that discuss cultural topics/political topics/religious topics
 - Goal is to make our members more aware and informed members of our campus and of society in general.
 - Also this will increase our campus presence
 - Add more of these events (there are so many Daily Trojan has asked me to cover)
- Blind dates:
 - Continue these (perhaps offer ones between just actives/associates in the beginning, and then another round including pledges toward the second half of the semester)
 - Also require people to write a fact about what they learned about the person they went on a date with
- Reach out to associates more
 - Bi-weekly or monthly check ins to ask how they're planning on finishing requirements
 - Ask associates what kinds of events they'd like to see and if they'd like to host any fellowship events
- Abroad brothers
 - Continue the abroad brother of the week videos (maybe keep a time limit if people are concerned about GBMs going long)
 - Encourage writing emails/letters to abroad brothers as a means of getting membership points (or skyping with them → I think we kind of do this with Alumnis??)
- More weekly GBM games
 - Post about which GBMs will have the game and what game it will be ahead of time and have family heads arrange for people to go up (this will decrease the time people will spend shouting at people to go up and participate)
 - Extra family points for families who send associates to do the game (this will motivate families to reach out to associates more)
- Membership Committee
 - Continue what Vanessa did with checking in with Family Heads

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.**

Pledgemaster and Membership: Special Events Coordinator, Alpha Family Head, and Philanthropy Co-Chair → planned big scale events, coordinated with multiple people, came up with new events, created bonding activities for retreat, encouraged active bonding via active retreat at the trampoline place (Sky Zone?), hosted small bonding activities (like dumpling making) that helped Alphas bond/talk to people they otherwise hadn't.

Specifically for VP of Membership: I was on the membership committee this semester so I have a good idea about how Vanessa ran things/how she tried to improve members' experience/how the committee spent time revising by-laws

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?**

I'll be working part time at a cardiovascular clinic as a scribe. Other than that, just working out lol. I will be free basically everyday after 6pm (about when I get back from work) and because I have less commitments, I will be much freer than I have been in the past to reach out to people/plan events.