



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: Jennifer Wang

Year: Junior

Major: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Epsilon, Fall 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?

I envision APO at USC to be two things: (1) to be acknowledged by the campus and the community we serve as what we advertise ourselves to be, USC's *premier* co-ed community service organization and (2) to be a safe and equal space for all AK brothers by building empathy, open-mindedness and acceptance.

(1) One of the larger issues I see recurring with APO at USC is the fact that we essentially have no presence on campus. For an organization that does so much good, we are wasting so much potential for large-scale campus and community change through the fact that no one knows us. My vision for APO is that it gains a professional—if not working—reputation on campus, through different marketing strategies and partnerships with other organizations. This will not only help enhance our recruitment process, but also strengthen and broaden the reach of our impact on the community that we accomplish through our service and philanthropy events.

(2) Having been in APO for five semesters—going on six in the spring—already, I notice that a recurring issue brought up by fellow brothers is the idea that APO is not as much of a family as we say it is so. Oftentimes, individuals feel as though they aren't respected by their brothers and that their feelings aren't being validated, and this is concerning to me. APO doesn't exist for one type or group of people. I believe that the best way to begin building empathy and understanding between members is by making time to get to know one another. I have ***no*** intentions or desire to mandate that everyone hangs out with new friends because (a) I have no right to and (b) it's unreasonable. But I don't think it's extreme to encourage each other to spend some time hearing others' perspectives and learning about one another.

As APO grows in diversity—in race, ethnicity, academic background, extracurricular interests, professional pursuits, and ways of thinking—it's crucial we learn to be more accepting and cohesive for the sake of our well-being as an organization and family. How I envision us working on this is answered in the questions below.

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

As I ran through the list of Executive Board positions that I could potentially run for, one question constantly ran through my head: What, if anything, can I contribute to this position that would make the chapter better than it is now? In consideration of the vision I hope for APO, I came to the conclusion that the position that would best put me in a position to work on the goals I have in mind, that would let me support the chapter in the best way I can and know how to, and that will

allow me to use the skill set I have to do the maximum positive impact is that of President.

Furthermore, the responsibility of the President is one I am familiar with. The tasks that he/she must accomplish largely go unseen and unrecognized by the active body as they are largely administrative, logistical, and supportive—the President exists to ensure that everything in APO flows smoothly, and that means a good deal of paperwork, meetings, listening to the concerns of members, and being the neutral facilitator despite having his/her own opinions. I have built this skillset through my leadership roles within and outside of APO, my extracurricular experiences, and my role as an older sister, friend, and daughter.

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

- (1) To create space for more dialogue between brothers of APO to promote the building of empathy for each other and, best case scenario, the building of new friendships even after pledging.
- (2) To rebuild our image and presence on USC campus.
- (3) To bridge the gap between the active body and the Executive Board with the purpose of enhancing the cohesiveness of APO as a whole and of allowing for more productive dialogue with regards to changes in how APO and the Executive Board functions. Anonymous evaluations have their benefits, but these one-way conversations aren't enough.
- (4) To introduce new traditions to the APO experience—or at least introduce some variations to traditions we currently have.

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

- (1) President's Dinner: I want to foster active dialogue between the active body of APO and the Executive Board. I imagine these dinners to be small and intimate—but not too small where speaking up is awkward—so that individuals feel safe to speak up about how they feel their semester is going, what concerns they may have with what's going on in APO, and asks questions they may feel uncomfortable to ask in the large GBM setting.
- (2) If President's Dinner isn't feasible, another possible solution that addresses the same problem is an anonymous forum. The biggest issue with anonymous evaluations is that the executive board member cannot engage in discussion with whomever submitted the evaluation. If this forum were feasible, it'd keep the benefits of an anonymous evaluation—it's anonymous—while also allowing for what is needed—discussion.
- (3) Fundraising: I want to expand fundraising to where it's not just for the purpose of raising money for ourselves. There are many important organizations we support through service, and it'd be wonderful if we could raise money to support what they do. Additionally, this could be a way to expand our campus

presence if we team up with other organizations on campus to host a large-scale fundraiser for a given organization.

- a. Fundraising competition between different organizations, or even chapters of APO, in which the president of the organization/chapter that raises the least amount of money faces a punishment by the other organizations:
 - i. Gets pied, attacked by water balloons, has to do an embarrassing task, etc.
- b. Campus-wide drive for supplies the organizations we support may need, such as food, clothes, or other supplies

(4) Love Book Online (I can't come up with a cute title right now but bear with me): Love Book is beautiful in that it gives individuals a chance to express how much another brother means to them. I'd like to expand that idea to a platform that allows more people the opportunity and time—because honestly not everyone has the energy to write everything they may want to write during GBM—to appreciate (a) a friend (b) a brother of APO they may just have gotten to know.

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.**

(1) Development Committee – California Association of Student Councils

- a. Although this was a high school program, the experience of working on this committee is applicable to the role of President. Being part of this committee largely involved writing requests for funding and resources from other organizations, which I see as a parallel to the responsibility of the President to seek out more advisors (lots of emailing and meetings), to communicate with other organizations, and to coordinate between different Vice Presidents, among other responsibilities.

(2) EdMonth Executive Board

- a. Being an executive board member of EdMonth at USC required staying up-to-date on what was planned for EdMonth every month and what each specific executive board member had to do—therefore we knew in which areas we could assist them in planning their event—and the logistics of their event. It was imperative we knew just as much about each event as the board member organizing it in case any participant had questions regarding the event. In a similar manner, I think it's important for the President to know what his/her board members are doing in terms of the progress of their event planning, how and if they need help, and the logistics of their event so that E-Board as a whole stays cohesive, especially in the face of confused actives and rushees.

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?**

- EdMonth Executive Board
- Research at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA)

- Volunteering at a local LAC+USC clinic

I plan on balancing the responsibilities of being on the Executive Board with my other commitments the way I have always done so in the past—through the time-management skills I've developed over the years of being a student (and a pre-med one at that) and through Google Calendar. I think I have developed a very strong and dependable work ethic over the years, and I don't see myself giving that up anytime soon. Executive Board duties should fit in easily with what's already on my plate because it'll take place of the extracurricular responsibilities I had this fall but will not continue to have in the spring.