



## Spring 2016 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than FRIDAY November 29<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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm** 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:** Amy Zhao

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Global Health

**Pledge Class (Year):** Alpha Epsilon (Fall 2015)

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

- |                                                   |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President                | <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Finance        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pledgemaster             | <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Communications |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VP of Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Chair    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Membership         | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Chair             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VP of Fellowship         |                                               |

### PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

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

My vision for APO is to refocus the organization and reorient it around service. I want to see that the

cardinal principles of LFS are seen in everything we do. My vision of APO is one where each event we host or participate in incorporates at least two aspects of LFS. I want to see fellowship in service. I want to see leadership in friendship. I believe that in many cases, APO works to focus on developing each of the cardinal principles separate; however, I believe in integrating all three of them together and see how they play together dynamically.

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

I want to become APO's next VP of Service because service is why I decided to rush and then pledge APO. When I rushed APO, I named service as my strongest cardinal principle and leadership my least; however, over time, I have definitely seen my leadership grow and I want to continue that by becoming VP of Service and combining my strengths with something that I am always developing. I want to be VP of Service because I believe that there needs to be more focus on service within this chapter. As VP of Service, I want to be able to help each brother understand what is important to them about service and how they can incorporate service into their lives through hobbies, fellowship, and leadership. I want to give more dynamics to the service aspect of APO by integrating it with fellowship and leadership and also to other people's interests. I want to help people understand how service can be an integral part of their lives by finding that one passion.

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

As VP of Service, my main goal would be to help the chapter reorient itself around service, as it was founded to do so. To achieve this main goal, my specific goals would be to help people understand why they are doing service, to challenge the chapter in doing more meaningful service, and to establish more service events. I want to really show the chapter that service is an integral part of our lives and it doesn't need to feel like it's a requirement. It is something that should be enjoyed and doesn't have to feel like you're checking something off a list. Service is enjoyable. It is natural. It comes in different forms. I would want the chapter to understand that, help them realize this, and thus in turn reorient the chapter around service.

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

First and foremost, I want to be able to continue service invite-type events throughout the semester. They can be more small-scale events such as the ones that we do for PR during rush. This would also then increase our PR throughout the semester and embed the idea of APO into potential rushes before rush even starts. I have talked to my friends outside of APO about APO and one of the things one of my friends mentioned was that she wished she rushed APO, but now she's a graduating senior. However, she also mentioned that she wished that APO would have more service invite-like events that would be open to people outside of APO. Not only would this provide others a chance to engage in service, but it would also showcase APO on campus and help people come to understand that APO is more than just a fraternity. It truly embodies service as one of its cardinal values. I think that this past semester, the different PR events such as blanket making and sandwich making were excellent in showing a small glimpse as to what APO is about and should be continued outside of rush. These events should be preparing people to truly consider rushing APO in the following semester.

Some examples of events I have are continuing sandwich making, blanket making, card making, and any of our other overflow or PR rush events. I also want to create new events such as assembling care packages to be delivered to Skid Row and Greater West Hollywood biweekly, assembling care packages for siblings and kids in long-term hospital care, writing letters to people in retirement homes, hosting events with ESA for sustainability, working with RHTM to play

music in hospitals, hosting book drives to be delivered to our education organizations, and making dog toys for the German Shepherds at Westside German Shepherd Rescue. There could also be more large-scale events beyond just KEDS such as a version of KEDS for senior citizens to help them maintain their independence and also learn skills such as how to navigate the bus lines around LA or a version of KEDS with children with disabilities such as autism so they have opportunities for other forms of education as well. I want to be able to work with the philanthropy co-chairs to make these possible.

I also want to be able to make some of our current weekly service events more integrated with other cardinal principles, namely fellowship. I believe that our fellowship events should be more service-oriented as well. I want to be able to make events such as Westside German Shepherd Rescue and Fur Baby more fellowship related as well. I want to be able to work with the VP of Fellowship to make this possible, that way brothers in the chapter would be able to see that our cardinal principles do not have to exist alone in their each category. They can easily be integrated together and better help brothers in our chapter develop these three principles and live them out in life outside of APO and even beyond college.

I also want to create some new events for APO and expand the fields of service that we work with. For example, I want us to be able to work more with the elderly population or with children with disabilities. I would research organizations in the area and contact people as to how we can create monthly or weekly events to go and volunteer there. Many people in APO have varying interests and I feel that by expanding our fields of service, more and more people would be able to find how service is integrated into their own lives. Some organizations I already have in mind are Homeboy Industries (I have friends who have interned at Homeboy before so I would have specific contacts), Special Olympics Los Angeles, and more senior center homes near USC.

I also would want to encourage people to go to more of our weekly service events outside of the times we have scheduled, such as 32<sup>nd</sup> Street School Tutoring, Monday Night Mission, and Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition. I also want to reward people for taking on additional roles in organizations, such as becoming a mentor at Kid City. I want to reward people for going above and beyond in these areas.

With all these new ideas, I also want to keep some older ideas such as weekly service forms, weekly reflection questions, and servicer of the week to keep people accountable and rewarded for going above and beyond.

**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.**

Within APO, I was pledge secretary and played a role in creating the pledge service event of salsa night, something that as philanthropy co-chair, I want to continue and expand. I have played a role in event planning before when working in Trojan Family Weekend as the SCamp coordinator. As the SCamp coordinator, I was in charge of organizing activities for children ages 10-15 on campus during Trojan Family Weekend. This required innovation, understanding of what children liked, and also patience and flexibility. This experience taught me how to plan an event and also take care of any issues that arose. These are all things that I noticed are necessary for events such as KEDS. I also have volunteered as a development intern at Starlight Children's Foundation where I researched non-profit development and played a key role in organizing the current holiday campaign, #GIVEActually. I was the one who came up with the idea for the campaign. This experience also gave me insight into how non-profits work and how to best work with them and facilities such as hospitals to be able to help them the most. I also have volunteer experience in areas of service that have not been as explored by USC such as playing music for people with dementia and Alzheimer's and volunteering in acute rehabilitation wards in hospitals. I have connections there and these experiences have also taught me how to work with people and how to host any large-scale events.

**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 terms of other commitments, I will be continuing my research at the Brain and Creativity Institute (5-6 hours per week) and continuing my position as historian of the Pre-OT Club. The Pre-OT Club only meets two times per month and any additional site visits are not all mandatory, especially since many run during class time. Furthermore, for my classes, my Friday class only meets once during the semester and the Wednesday nighttime class meets three times a semester so there is more time for me to accomplish my duties as VP of Service than there seems to be on my schedule. I believe I have the time management skills needed to complete my duties in a timely manner and to balance it with my academics and my other commitments. I will be able to prioritize everything I need to do and am organized in creating deadlines for myself.