



Elected Board Application Fall 2021

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2021 schedule** with this application (class, work, other extracurricular activities). All executive board members must be able to accommodate executive board meetings (EBMs) and general body meetings (GBMS) in their Monday night schedules unless this is later changed by the **Fall 2021** Executive Board.

Applications are due **no later than Wednesday, April 14th at 11:59 PM PST. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please send this document with all supplemental materials to President (president.apousc@gmail.com) and cc Sergeant-at-Arms (seargentatarms@gmail.com) and Webmaster (webmaster.apousc@gmail.com).

Election Day: Candidates for President and New Member Educator will have 3 minutes to give their speeches. Candidates for all other positions will have 2 minutes.

You may present **1 slide per position** you run for at the time of your speech. If you are running all or nothing for a co position, you may share a speech with your running mate and have **up to 2 slides**. If you are not running all or nothing, you must have a separate speech and slide. Slides are due **no later than Wednesday, April 14th at 11:59 PM PST** to President (president.apousc@gmail.com). No changes to your slide(s) may be made after this date. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Andrew Anhao Li

School Year (Grade): Junior

New Member Class (Semester & Year): Alpha Xi (Spring 2019)

Major(s): Neuroscience

Minor(s): Health Care Studies
E-mail(s): ali068@usc.edu
Phone Number(s): (626)-231-9559

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

- ☐ President (1)
- ☐ Pledgemaster AKA New Member Educator (1)
- ☐ Co-VP of Finance (2)
- ☒ Co-VP of Membership (2)
- ☐ Diversity & Inclusion Chair (1)
- ☐ Intechapter Chair (1)
- ☐ VP of Communications (1)
- ☐ VP of Fellowship (1)
- ☐ VP of Service (1)

Name of person you are running with (leave blank if no running partners): Michelle Liang

Are you running all or nothing (leave blank if not applicable): Yes

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want the position(s) you are running for? Why are you the best candidate for the position(s) you selected?

When I first rushed for APO the fall semester of my freshman year, I behaved very differently from how I act now. I was a small quirky boy who was unconfident and unsure about the types of relationships and connections I would make in college. I heard about APO from my friends from high school and decided to give it a try but was not truly able to put myself out there because I was too conscientious about whether or not my personality type would be accepted or not in college. Even though my intentions were good and hopeful, my resolve and confidence in myself were constantly wavering. When I did not make it my first rushing semester, I was devastated. I attributed my failures to the immaturity of my personality when it was really a matter of lacking confidence and believing in my values. I had initially felt discouraged to rush again the next semester, because I felt like my personality type would never be accepted in college. However, it was the people who I had met while rushing that motivated me to come out of my comfort zone again and give myself a second chance. When I made it the second time I felt so relieved, and remembered during my pledging semester the respect and awe I had when I would see people like Michael, whose humor and banter would instantly make others laugh, and Justine who had a smile that was so infectious it would light up the room. I noticed how my pledge brothers and myself would look up to the other members of the Executive Committee for comfort, guidance, and cheer. That infectious positivity, and genuine kindness are the qualities that I believe should be represented by all members of APO. I want to assume the position of the VP of Membership so I can be someone that can inspire and be important to other people as well.

2. What is your vision for APO and what are your goals for the position(s)?

Co-VPs of Membership have traditionally been a position that requires very intense logistical and planning skills. These logistical organization skills will be of utmost importance when we have to complete integral tasks such as registering the new pledges with the National APO office or preparing the new Master Document for next semester. As VP of Fellowship, I had to coordinate a multitude of events during Rush that required me to potentially accommodate over 100 people (Fellowship BBQ, Hike, Hot Chocolate, S'mores). This included logistical factors such as purchasing food, planning rides, and finding a location to be able to sustain a group that large. Furthermore, I also incorporated many new things into APO that previously disappeared such as the APO Compliments Page and placed a great emphasis on having a multitude of Fellowship Series that semester. This trend of actively creating events that members can be a part of is a trend that I would greatly like to continue as Co-VP of Membership.

Our vision for APO is to try to bring the members closer together, especially the ones who feel as if it is hard to be as incorporated within the chapter. We realized that there are many barriers that can prevent people from becoming closer such as the Fam that one is in, socioeconomic barriers, and cultural differences. Therefore, we would like to try to initially incorporate events in which people can become introduced with each other and then participate in some sort of activity which brings them closer together. Our visions and goals as the Co-VP of Membership are to essentially spread the acceptance and sense of family to all members of APO in order to prevent them from feeling excluded or left out. Because APO has already offered us so much happiness and love, we would like to reciprocate that sentiment to all of the members to ensure that we can all prosper and engage in our service, philanthropy, or finance events with excitement and positivity. We want to have a higher rate of Active retention which is not only present during the beginning of the semester and would also like to continue to also do smaller-grouped events where that sense of intimacy between groups of people can still be cultured and developed.

Summer Planning (June 2021 - August 2021):

- Send out **membership surveys**
- Contact service leaders for **Leadership Dinner** (Recruitment Event)
- Start setting up/compiling data for the **MasterDoc**
- Communicate with the new President to see if there is anything (s)he wants to change/enforce
- Work with VPs of Finance to determine the Membership budget
- After receiving budget, gather/buy supplies necessary to conduct activities
- Collaborate with Fellowship to come up with new activities/Fellowship Series
- Coordinate with SEC to plan an Active Retreat
- Work with president and pledge team to work out the logistics of a **Pledge VP of Membership** position

Recruitment (August 2021 - September 2021):

- Coordinate with Recruitment to properly distribute Recruitment T-shirts
- Host **Leadership Dinner**
- Finish compiling the **MasterDoc**
- Send out an optional Membership survey to actives in order to bring up any issues/concerns that they may have in the new semester
- Start planning small GBM activities (Kahoot, Lovebook, etc.)
- Host Active Retreat

New Member Education Period (October 2021 - December 2021):

- Conduct the majority of our membership events (**Pledges VS. Actives, Blind Dates, Workshops, Interview Mixers, Family Competitions, Funtivities**)
- Register pledges with the national chapter
- Introduce new events (**stress-relief sessions, joint membership events with IC chapters**)
- Release Google Form for **Networking Database** and update throughout the semester
- Work with SEC to plan activities during Retreat
- Work on Big/Little **Pairings** with Pledge Team and President
- Establish **Pledge Membership** Position
- Establish **Academic Mentor** Program
- Conduct **Mid-Semester Reviews**
- Host Bi-weekly **office hours** open to all members of the chapter

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

I think one of my greatest strengths as a person that will help me as Co-VP of Membership is that I have a very creative imagination and also being able to mix service and work with fun. My mindset when I want to create and do new activities are also holistic because I like to incorporate events which can be both very sweet and cute or very outgoing, strange, and memorable.

Creating a Pledge VP of Membership Position

Unlike most other committees, there is no pledge Excomm member appointed to attend Membership Committee meetings. With Membership being such an integral position to the chapter, it is important that we ensure pledges are given the opportunity to experience the duties of Membership, similar to other VP positions such as Service and Fellowship.

Potential duties of the Pledge VP of Membership:

- Ensure that members of the class are on track to finishing requirements and cross
- Host a Membership event (De-stressing, Professional development, etc.)
- Attend the Membership Committee meetings
- Assist in the organization of Chapter Mixer

Membership Office Hours

Similar to the office hour Google Sheets James sends out each week, we will be posting our availability bi-weekly for members to sign up for individual office hours with us. We want to create a safe space for members to feel welcomed to speak to us about anything that is bothering them and trust that the content of whatever is discussed will remain confidential between the two parties. The purpose of hosting these meetings could be to provide mental health check-ups as well as personalized action plans to assist members with finishing requirements. Through our term, we would like to place a great emphasis on the mental health of our members, as we both understand that college is a period of dynamic change and uncertainty for many people.

Although Alpha Phi Omega is first and foremost a service-focused organization, the well-being of our general members is crucial, because excellent service can only be achieved with an excellent mindset.

Biweekly Stress Relief Sessions (Life is a Mess, It's Time to Destress!)

In conjunction with the Membership Office Hours, we would like to host a bi-weekly destressing series called *Life is a Mess, It's Time to Destress!* These events can be either in-person (capped at a certain number of people) or virtual depending on the general members' comfort levels with the pandemic and their interests (this will be determined based upon responses that we gather from the Membership Survey). This biweekly event can be hosted by the VPs of Membership, the Pledge VP of Membership, or any general member that would be interested in leading an activity. Some examples of activities that we would like to host are: yoga sessions, f45 workouts, cooking/baking events, movie nights, boxing training, painting sessions, and informational occupational therapy lessons.

“Get to Know the APbrOs!” GBM Activity

To get to know some fun facts about each and every one of our amazing members, we will be introducing a member-related activity during GBM. As a part of our membership survey, each member will submit one interesting fact about themselves. Then, at each GBM, a set number of interesting facts will be displayed on either Kahoot or polleverywhere.com, and members will guess who the facts belong to. We will make sure that this activity will not be too time-consuming to delay GBM's end time.

Reincorporate Past APO Traditions

Along with introducing new ideas to the Alpha Sigma semester, we are eager to reintroduce past traditions that have been forgotten over the past few semesters. This is so that the new members who only knew APO during the virtual semester can experience some long-standing traditions that we have loved during our time in APO. Some examples of these previous traditions include:

APO Blind Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A survey will be sent out to the general members to fill out who are interested in participating in the event. They will list a series of activities that they would be willing to engage in and two members that share similar interests will be anonymously paired together. They will be given a location to meet and an activity to complete. Participants will only get to discover who their “blind date” is at the designated meeting time and location.
Funtivities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funtivities are events that Actives can sign up to host for the new pledge classes. The people hosting the event will be anonymous and the pledges will sign up to each event

only knowing the title of the activity that slightly gives a hint about what it is. This was an APO tradition and a pledge requirement that was passed down for years before it was unfortunately halted due to the coronavirus pandemic. Members that hosted events would even create group chats that would be passed down through semesters for future pledges to engage in too.

Secret Admirer

- Secret Admirer is a semester-long event in which members who sign up will be anonymously paired to write notes to another assigned member before every GBM. The notes will be exchanged by the VPs of Membership each GBM and the anonymous pair will be revealed to each other by the end of the semester. This will provide an incentive to people to attend GBM more frequently and interact with people they may not usually have the chance to talk to normally.

Create a Networking Database

Another great thing about the APO community is how involved and successful our members are, including both alumni and current students, across various organizations and industries. We want to create a platform to document the information of current and past members. Members will receive access to this information and can use them to network with each other based on their interests and professional aspirations. We will send out a Google Form that all members (actives, associates, inactive members, pledges) of APO can fill out with their preferred contact information, companies they've worked/interned at, other on-campus org involvement, specialized industry, etc. We will collaborate with the Alumni Liaison to also extend the invitation to alumni who are willing to serve as points of contact.

Alternative Methods of Obtaining Membership Points

Membership Gift Drop-Offs (0.5 points)

- Members of the general body can drop off gifts, letters, or send a virtual message to other members to check up on them and see how they are doing during the semester. This would encourage and foster an environment in which the general members would be looking after each other to ensure that no one is left out and that we are all cared and accounted for.

Active Interview (0.5 Points)

- Actives can get membership points for conducting interviews with another active/associate/transfer brother. This will serve as an opportunity and incentive for Actives to interview people they wish they had interviewed during their pledging semester but were not able to.

Possibility of Introducing More Chapter-Wide Events During the Semester

These events will run similarly to the large-scale service and fellowship events that have consistently been popular among Actives during recruitment. In the past semesters, we see that active attendance is at its highest during recruitment, with events such as Chapter BBQ and LA Food Bank being greatly appreciated by most members. However, these kinds of chapter-wide service or fellowship events have never been done after recruitment.

These events will be planned only under the circumstance that large-group gatherings are permitted during the Fall semester. All venues will be outdoors. Participants must wear masks at all times with proof of vaccination/negative covid test to be eligible for attendance. If large-group gatherings are not possible but we receive a sufficient amount of interest from members, we may consider carrying out these events online.

1. Active Retreat/Family Olympics

The purpose of Active Retreat is to strengthen the bond between existing members of our chapter. This day-long event will be held during the Recruitment period, prior to the introduction of the new pledge class. If COVID regulation allows, the location of the event will most likely be either at the beach or at a park. Aside from giving Actives plenty of free time to do whatever they want, we can also set aside a few hours for a friendly Olympics-style competition between the three families. Some game ideas include Tug-of-War, Egg Race, Balloon Stomp Game, Musical Chair, etc.

2. Chapter Mixer

The purpose of Chapter Mixer is to provide an opportunity during the semester for current members to mingle with the entire APO community. Chapter Mixer will be an internal event open to current members (actives, associates, alumni, pledges) of APO and will occur in the middle of the semester. The event will be organized in collaboration with the Pledge VP of Membership. We will collect active interests through the membership survey to determine the specific theme of the mixer, while ensuring that we follow COVID regulations. If in-person, the event could look like Chapter BBQ, Mocktails, Ice cream social, Beach day, etc.

3. Beach Clean-up Day

We will work with the VP of Service to organize a beach clean-up day at one of the Los Angeles beaches. This event can either be hosted on our own or in partnership with the LA Surfrider Foundation, which offers assistance in the facilitation of an organization cleanup event. This chapter-wide service event will most likely take place during the second half of the semester to provide a large service opportunity for after pledges have gotten their bigs. It will also be a fun way to assist members in finishing their service requirements.

4. 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 been a part of a multitude of leadership and fellowship-based experiences throughout high school and college. When I was in high school, I was part of Key Club and served as the Spirit Coordinator of the school district (Division) which was essentially the VP of Fellowship in that organization and included a multitude of responsibilities including hosting fun bonding events for the club, teaching them the club chants specific to our Division, and leading the members during the biggest event of the year called Fall Rally where tens of thousands of Key Club people would gather and have a cheering competition against each other. I would also host all of the ice breaker events during the monthly Division meetings with the other schools. In high school, I was also part of the Associated Student Body (ASB) which was a very active role in the school community because I had to plan all of the dances, school spirit events, and host many of the rallies as I would speak into a microphone to the whole student body. There would also be many cool and fun competition type events where each of the classes would compete against each other such as doing karaoke competitions and dances during Christmas. From this position, I learned to not be afraid of talking about information to large groups of people and creating an atmosphere of laughs and positivity. From both of these positions, I also learned how to coordinate large events with other people while also maintaining a fun and cheerful image in front of others.

Throughout college I have also cultivated a lot of experience within APO as well. From my pledging semester I assumed the mantle of Pledge Class President and helped my pledge executive committee arrange events and fundraise money for the organization. It also involved many logistical tasks like Pledge Master kidnapping which required a lot of planning and communication as well. I have also previously served as the VP of Fellowship, which was also a role in which logistical planning was vital. It involved the responsibility of hosting multiple large-scale events during rush in which there could be over 100 people; rides, food, and activities had to be prepared and ready by the time of the event. These skills that I have accumulated from the past will be integral in the logistical planning requirements that are associated with being the VP of Membership especially if we were to translate into an in person semester as well. I also established many new Fellowship Series like Flabs to Abs and Sugoi Desu! (Anime Watching) that I hope to continue in future semesters in order to foster a sense of familiarity between the old and incoming classes. I have also implemented the APO Compliments Page that provides another opportunity for members to show appreciation to each other and earn Fellowship points so they are not too stressed throughout the semester. These are sentiments that I would like to continue to foster if I were to become one of the Membership chairs.

5. 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?

Most of my commitments that I will be involved in next semester are essentially the same as this semester. Despite these commitments, I have still maintained a strong balance of my education, social, and professional goals. These were all commitments that I had during my time as the VP of Fellowship in which I was still able to devote my time effectively, creating over 20 distinct Fellowship Events (the majority of which I hosted) before we were quarantined because of the coronavirus outbreak. Because of my efforts, Fellowship points were the requirement that pledges had the least difficulty completing because they were more accessible and interesting to attend. Because I have improved my time management skills, I know that I have the ability to balance all of my commitments, while also

understanding that I can always distribute and entrust my responsibilities to my co-chair Michelle Liang if necessary.

Current Commitments:

Lab Research

Hospital Volunteer

Zeta Phi Rho

Alpha Epsilon Delta

Science Outreach

Don't forget to attach your résumé and schedule!

Thank you for taking the time to apply for APO's elected board. You will be contacted shortly after the submission deadline with more information about elections. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email president.apouse@gmail.com.