



Fall 2015 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2013 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than FRIDAY APRIL 24TH at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apousc@gmail.com and 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 26TH at 11:59pm** to president.apousc@gmail.com. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Ugam Prakash Parekh.

Year: Sophomore.

Major: Business Administration.

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

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

☐ President

☒ VP of Finance

☐ Pledgemaster

☐ VP of Communications

☐ VP of Service

☐ Fundraising Chair

☐ VP of Membership

☐ IC Chair

☐ VP of Fellowship

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is your vision for APO?

The reason I joined APO is to dedicate myself to service. This has been my vision through the past year, and it continues to be. I want APO to be geared and firmly rooted in our three pillars of leadership, friendship, and service.

I believe that although our culture is not where it should be currently, it is possible to change and to establish a more service-based environment within APO.

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

I would like to run for Co-VP of Finance because I want to make a difference. Without our finances, APO would not be able to operate and I want to take responsibility for the backbone of our fraternity. I recognize that many of the problems that arise within our events include costs. I strongly wish that costs wouldn't be a problem that would come in the way of our members and their dedication to APO. Thus, one of my main objectives would be to improve on this situation and support our members to be active in our fraternity. I will be transparent in the budgeting and finance conditions for our fraternity, and will work to maintain a high level of communication with our members.

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

My main goal for this position is to maintain an environment where money will not hinder people from volunteering and doing service, as well as bonding with their fellow brothers. I believe that the budgeting this semester was successful, and I would like to keep a similar framework for the coming semester with the dues, distribution, existing fundraising events, and the current payment plans. However, there are some changes I would like to implement to increase a service-oriented culture. One of the main changes I would like to implement is making the Retreat Auction a legal and safe auction. Many were uncomfortable with the auction this semester, and thus I would like to establish a safer environment. This would include reviewing the sellers' goods or services prior to the auction and setting standards for the goods/services that are to be sold. Another thing I would like to maintain is the drivers' budget. I would like to keep the additional \$500 allocation to the drivers budget that was done this semester, as I believe that drivers should not have to be worried and turn away from driving to our events, based on whether they will get reimbursed the full amount. I would ideally like to add more to the drivers' reimbursements, but that will depend on the budget for Sectionals this year, and thus may not be feasible this coming semester.

One of the many issues that have arisen is the debate on whether we are fundraising enough outside of our community. I would like to create new fundraising events that are outside of APO, such as through T-shirt sales or events with our IC brothers. I have gone into detail in the section below.

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

I have three main ideas I would like to implement if I become Co-VP of Finance:

1. USG Funding and Corporate Sponsorships.

With sectionals coming up next year, I recognize that funding will be critical this semester. One of my goals would be to apply for USG Funding for Sectionals. I believe that we are a qualified student organization and that we have a good chance of gaining funding through their discretionary application. I would also like to take the responsibility and apply for funding for not only our philanthropy but also service events, through USG's philanthropy application. Once again, we are a qualified student organization. Since we gained funding for our philanthropy events this semester, I believe it will be possible in the coming semester as well. I would also like to bring back applying for corporate sponsorships for our service events, as had been done last Fall at KEDS. This can be through getting corporations to donate materials or money, such as food to our events. This would require close work with the VP of Service, and the Philanthropy Co-Chairs.

2. Creating a fundraising event outside of our USC campus, but instead with our IC brothers.

One of my favorite events this semester that I recently went to was the IC Broomball hosted by Rho Gamma (CSU Long Beach). This event was both their semiannual IC and fundraising event. They rented an ice rink

and charged our IC brothers more than what the price was per person entering the ice rink. This way, they were able to fundraise outside of their university and community, as well as bond with brothers from different schools. I would like to create a similar event, such as a bowling event, for Alpha Kappa in a way that can help us fundraise outside of USC and create bonds with brothers in other chapters. It would require close work with the IC chair. This would also be a good networking experience and can help us maintain good relationships and reputation with other chapters that our IC chairs have worked to establish.

3. Using Football Season to our advantage.

Looking at the Football Season schedule, USC will be hosting two major home games: Stanford and UCLA. As college football is a big culture at our university, I believe that it would be smart to use the football games to our advantage and sell merchandise such as T-shirts, pins, etc. during this season. Looking at other organizations, they have gained a lot of revenue from doing so, and I believe that APO should take advantage of this opportunity as well. It will greatly help us generate further revenue, which is critical for us especially with Sectionals approaching soon.

Also, I strongly believe that we should be able to incorporate helping others within our fundraising. One of the ways this can be done is similar to the 'Pouring Dranks' event this semester. For instance, applying for funding from USG or corporate sponsors to distribute bottles of water at pre-games on campus as well as football games, would be one option. This would require close work with the VP of Service, as well as the Philanthropy Co-Chairs.

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 been fundraising and financing in almost all organizations I have been a part of. Opportunities within my involvements where I took leadership include:

Spring 2011: I was involved in Relay For Life. My team and I successfully managed to fundraise ~RMB7,800 in two weeks through selling Pixie Sticks, which are rare in Shanghai, to students at Shanghai *American* School for 10RMB each (cost per piece was 2RMB).

2012, 2013: I worked with a few others, and we were responsible for ticket sales for the Arts, Charity, and Extravaganza in Shanghai. My job included promoting and selling tickets to the Extravaganza to students in my high school and the local community.

Summer 2013, 2014: I interned at Trilok Dia Co. Ltd (Shanghai Branch) where one of my responsibilities was collecting and processing payments from customers through issuing and cashing checks, as well as counting money. I was also responsible for logging the date and time of payments from customers in Excel, as well as pending payments and due dates.

Fall 2014: I was Rush Co-Chair, which pressured me to keep budgeting tabs on the amount of spending I was doing for rush events, as well as props for rush such as T-shirts and pens. My Co-chair and I successfully stayed within our budget.

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 time next semester will be primarily dedicated to my academics and APO. I plan to join a few other organizations, but I do not plan on taking major leadership roles within those organizations. My schedule will be flexible and balancing executive board duties with these commitments will not be a problem.