



Spring 2020 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2020 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY, November 24th at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apousc@gmail.com and cc 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. If you are running all or nothing for a co position, you may share a speech with your running mate and have **up to two slides**. If you are not running all or nothing, you must have a separate speech and slide. Slides are due by **SUNDAY November 24th at 11:59 PM** 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: Justin Chang

Year: Junior

Major: Human Biology & Political Science

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Lambda/Fall 2017

Have you finished requirements?: Yes

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

☒ President

☐ Pledgemaster

☐ VP of Service

☐ Co-VP of Membership

☐ VP of Fellowship

☐ Co-VP of Finance

☐ VP of Communications

☐ IC Chair

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

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

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

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

I want to be the President of APO, because I want to bring this chapter to its prime. Next semester will be my 6th semester in APO and I believe that I have an excellent understanding of the current state of the chapter: its strengths and its weaknesses. By being on Excomm for the past three semesters, I have developed a good grasp of how our chapter functions on many levels. With this experience behind me, I believe that I am the most qualified candidate to be APO's next President.

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

The APO community here at USC has always been changing and developing, as it evolves and brings in new members ever semester. However, despite this change, the one thing that remains the same are the values that APO ingrains within its pledges and actives. As a service fraternity, we should all recognize the importance of service and be able to see the role that service does in connecting those who have a passion for service. By performing community service with those around you, we are all connected through this love of helping the underserved and underrepresented here at USC. Furthermore, we are also brought together as a LA community, linking those who have a passion for service with the underserved. LA is our home and I believe that APO connects us together as a family through this vision.

If elected as the next President of APO, I plan on expanding upon APO's service roots. Furthermore, I also plan on bringing a more concrete role to the position of President in APO. That being said, I want to provide more structure to the APO experience for both pledges and actives, as we move towards a new focus on service.

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

One of the main issues I see with students here at USC in general is a lack of wellbeing, which stems from an indifference in one's own mental health. I believe that mental health is one of the most important aspects of one's life. As president, I would like help APO members to care more about their own mental health. To do this, I would start off GBM with tips for maintaining good **mental health** amid times of college stress. These tips would be coupled with potential wellbeing exercises that could be done at the start of GBM with all members in the room. Additionally, there exists a multitude of USC resources that are readily available for students to help combat, not just mental health, but other issues like college poverty and homelessness.

To add on top of this, I also would want to adapt my "What's Going on in the World?" series to a **"What's Going on in USC/LA?"** Series. I believe that it's important to stay relevant with local news, since it plays the most direct impact on all of us. And by

discussing certain news that's applicable to our daily lives, I would be able to provide a response to it. For example, this semester, USC sadly suffered nice student deaths. As president, I would offer a response to this and provide the APO family with on-campus resources they could use, if affected. As an RA, I feel that I am very knowledgeable in many of these resources as well as tips for mental health and general wellbeing, and I would like to help others by sharing these resources and tips with the APO general body.

On a more national/external level, I hope to apply our chapter for a variety of **service grants** that are offered by the national organization. This grant provides APO chapters across the country with \$500 to complete a service project of their choosing. Considering our philanthropy and service budget right now are a little over \$1000, this would increase our budget by 150% for service related events. I also plan on applying our chapter for **USC service awards** like the Tommy Awards, which we won a few years back.

Within APO internally, I also want to focus on Excomm and its development throughout the semester. I plan on working closely with every E-board position and their respective A-board members by mandating a **biweekly report for all VPs**. Through a simple google survey due every other weekend, I want to be able to visualize the weekly goals and plans for every E-board member. Throughout my own experience in Excomm, there were many times when I wish I had more concrete/structured guidance in how to approach the role in my position. In this weekly report, I would want to know what each E-board member plans on accomplishing that week and what they have accomplished in the previous week, in regards to APO. I also want to know what they plan on accomplishing with their A-board members. For example, how is the VP of Communications assisting the Webmaster this week with their DTA video? Or how is the VP of Service working with Phil this week during rush? By asking questions like these, I hope to help each E-board member not just develop their leadership skills within their respective committees, but also to provide more structure to the weekly doings of every Excomm member. With the information gathered from these weekly report, I will personally follow up with every E-board member to play a closer role as president into the ideas of the VPs and assist them with the implementation of those ideas.

I also plan on playing a more helpful hand by **helping and attending various comms** every week to assist in the development of weekly goals and plans of every Excomm member. In other words, every week, I plan on randomly attending a specific comm and helping that group of APO members work through whatever may be discussed that week.

Lastly, I hope to work with various VPs/Excomm members to consider **new changes** to APO to improve active involvement within APO and make some changes to the general APO structure. I would work with pledge team to find alternatives to traditions like Trust Walk and DTA, in order to maintain our recognition as an official USC organization. One other change I have been considering is to make the

recruitment period shorter, allowing more time for pledges to finish requirements. Since this is a very big change, I would consult all of Excomm and work with the Recruitment Chairs and pledge team to see if this is feasible.

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 involved in APO for 5 semesters now and through my experiences, I have served as Pledge VP of Fellowship, VP of Communications and the Co-VP of Membership, and Sergeant-At-Arms. Through all of these positions, I have a very great understanding of our chapter and the way it functions. I understand our strengths and weaknesses. I know how to solve these weaknesses and carry on with our strengths.

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?**

The only duties I will have are within my role as an RA, my research, and my classes.