



Fall 2015 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2015 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.apouse@gmail.com and 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, APRIL 26TH at 11:59pm** 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: Richard Li

Year: Sophomore

Major: Business Administration & Public Relations

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Delta (Spring 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?

My vision for Alpha Phi Omega at Alpha Kappa is to be able to inspire our active members and our pledges a like to not only be passionate for service, but for the fraternity as well. I realize that over time we've been losing our passion for both. While I do agree that most of this has been a result of our chapter's culture, I want to find ways to improve our culture than merely stating the fact and not coming with any form of improvement or changes.

In terms of service, I have two goals to help encourage our chapter's passion for service. The first one is to have more conversations and open discussions about why we do service as a fraternity. I want our chapter to share with each other at GBM or through different outlets about how community service impacts them, what part of the fields of service actives would like to be more involved and etc. Having more individuals share their reasons of how service effects them can truly inspire more individuals who may need the encouragement to see the value in service. My second goal is to encourage our members to do service with each other through more service orientated events. Hopefully my plans as pledge master will shed more light on this goal.

The concept of transparency has been brought up time and time again, but it hasn't always been implemented in a way that gives our entire fraternity the opportunity to vocalize, discuss and acknowledge the flaws of our chapter in hopes to improve together. We have various avenues to bring up issues, but this assumes that every individual is comfortable in having the initiative to address the issues. Rather than assuming this, I want to have more of an opportunity within GBM for open discussions, questions of the week, and various ways for our chapter to work together. I also want to give actives a larger role in participating in EBM's, working with our ExComm members and to be better informed of all the triumphs and issues that ExComm faces.

In addition, another vision I hope to have within our chapter is that we emphasize that every member within this fraternity is not only a leader but also someone our pledges can inspire to be when they become actives. I want to give actives more of an involvement within the chapter by developing stronger committees. I believe that committees have the potential to give our active body and pledges a like the opportunity to not only build their leadership skills, but also provide another opportunity to help spark the movement for a change in our chapter. I want to help facilitate committees so that they aren't only just a place to help the respective ExComm members facilitate events but actually talk about how these roles play into our fraternity and how each active member has a role to improve each aspect of the fraternity. Having each ExComm member setting an agenda before each committee meeting and have meeting times and dates decided before the semester starts, can give our entire fraternity members more of an opportunity to best plan their schedules. I also want our chapter to set CAPS goals together. If we set CAPS goals at the beginning of the semester together, we can have our entire fraternity on the same page.

Our chapter is filled with individuals who are in fact passionate about our fraternity and for service as well. I just think that we haven't been able to find the right avenues for this to be ignited. I'm hoping that having been IC Chair and having the experience of changing the culture and perspective, I can do the same by inspiring not only a pledge class but the entire chapter as well. It's not going to be easy, but I am more than dedicated to do so.

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

As IC Chair this past semester, I was exposed to various opportunities where I met brothers from all walks of life and all different types of backgrounds. What I was inspired by was the passion that our IC brothers had, not only for their own respective chapter, but also for the fraternity as well.

I want to be Alpha Eta's Pledge Master because I really want to inspire, motivate and enthuse our future actives to find their passion within Alpha Phi Omega. The pledging program at Alpha Kappa needs some improvement to ensure that when the Alpha Eta Pledge Class crosses, they will be more than prepared for active hood, and that they will wear their letters with pride. Over the semesters, our chapter has been losing its steam and I want to reignite the passion our fraternity has for itself and for our pledges. I have also realized that our pledging program has had its fair share of confusions, misunderstanding and lack of clarity. I want to ensure that the pledge education program is not only supportive to the pledge class, but that it is clear, well defined, and easily understood. I strongly believe that pledging is the time where those who are in love with service realized that they have found their home at USC and those who like service will have come to realize that service is more important to them than what they could have ever expected. I want my pledges to not only find their passion for service (and other aspects of this amazing fraternity), but to realize that they will have the unconditional support of their pledge master, pledge team, pledge class and active body to succeed. I want to encourage my pledges to succeed individually and for them to also understand why it's important to succeed together as a pledge class, that no man should be left behind is a mentality is equally as vital. All in all, my purpose of running for pledge master is that I truly believe that I can best implement a pledge education program that not only encompasses the specialties of what it means to be from Alpha Kappa, but also instill our cardinal principals upon our pledge class.

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

As a perspective Pledge Master for the Alpha Eta class, my goal is to provide a pledge education program that will instill the cardinal principals of our fraternity to our future actives and prepare them to be inspiration leaders of the future. In order to do so, I have summed up my pledge education program into three distinctive and overarching goals that have various subcomponents that will help reach the targeted goal, they are: refocusing the pledging program back toward a service orientated core, to ensure that the pledging program at Alpha Kappa is transparent to all of its members, and to ensure that all the pledge education program teaches the pledges all the necessary macro

components of this fraternity in order to prepare them for active hood.

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

My new ideas for this position directly correlate to my three main goals for being Alpha Eta's Pledge Master.

SERVICE

One of the key ideas I would like to bring to the pledge education program is the service journal. A service journal is a non-graded component of the pledge program used to help facilitate meaningful thoughts regarding the service events they attend. It will ask pledges to be more involved in understanding what these service events strive to achieve, how it has made an impact for them and what field of service it will accomplish. Furthermore, the journals are a method to help pledges prepare of service discussions during pledge meeting.

In our fraternity we have a good program where we encourage our actives to do various fellowship events, such as pledge class mixers, big little appreciation week and funtivities but instead of being revolved around solely on fellowship activities, I want to emphasize that we can still enjoy these types of event if they also contained service, such as service day with your big/little or pledge class mixers that happen at a service event so as pledge master I will be looking to reshape these established programs and have them be more service orientated.

Instead of the second pledge mission, I would like the pledge class to organize four random acts of kindness throughout the semester that targets the four fields of service. The pledge class will be divided into four groups and each group will take turns leading the pledge class and active body through their random act of kindness (with the exception for the field of service for the fraternity). The goal is to promote leadership skills, team building exercise and encouraging active involvement with the pledge class on a service orientated goal.

TRANSPARENCY

At the beginning of the semester, I will establish the correct tone with the chapter to ensure that there will be no discrepancy between the active body and pledge team. It will be made clear what my expectation of the chapter are and likewise for the chapter's expectation of the pledge team and how we will implement the pledge education program. Furthermore, I will streamline my expectations for all Bigs at a Big Camp I plan to host during rush. All agendas, lesson plans, schedule of dates and a digital copy of the pledge binder will be made available to the active body at the beginning of the semester and all changes that are made after the start of the semester will be provided to the active body one week prior to the pledge meeting. In addition, I will allocate time in active announcements for updates of the pledge class (the good, the bad and the ugly) and will give time for discussions in which the active body sees issues or concerns that need to be addressed. Furthermore, I have pledge-meeting minutes to be more prominent so that our chapter is well informed with every aspect of the chapter and won't be in the dark at all.

MACRO FOUNDATIONS

Our chapter has done a phenomenal job of teaching our pledges the ropes within this chapter. However to an extent when our pledges become actives there is some fundamental knowledge that is still lacking. Information such as: bylaws, what each executive position strives to do, the importance of conferences, our chapter and fraternity history, etc. A larger part of this is that we make our pledges memorize information rather than teaching the information. As pledge master I will be teaching before testing, whether this is the importance of conferences, what happens at conferences, the history of our chapter, the scout oath and law. These are all things that should be explained why they have a significance, and it will hopefully the participation level of the pledges but help the gain a stronger understanding of how this fraternity works from a macro perspective.

I will like to incorporate panels within the pledging program for next semester. This will give our pledges an opportunity to learn how our ExComm, actives, previous pledge board and our section and regional chairs carry for LFS but how they each play a role in our chapter. Having them talk and answer question from the pledges, I am hoping this macro understanding will give the pledges the understanding to strive to be these individuals when they become active.

LEADS program at Alpha Kappa is an important component that is missing at our chapter. APO LEADS is a nationally standardized program that teaches all of our members how to be successful leaders beyond college and APO LEADS has a multitude of programs that are quite beneficial and I will like to make the Launch portion of this

program a requirement for all pledges. Launch is the requirement in order to complete the other course available and I would like to teach the course (if not possible host a webinar or have someone from regionals teach) for the Alpha Eta's.

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.

Being IC Chair really provided me with lot of opportunities and experience into this position than I ever thought I would. First off, my position is heavily demanded upon communication with a multitude of individuals (with varying personalities) it has taught me to be open to meeting new people, understanding where their perspectives come from and empathizing with any individual. It has also taught me well on how to engage an active body to accept and welcome unfamiliar brothers. As IC Chair I have learned how to constantly update information (masterdoc, event pages, relaying information to IC Chapters) and to effectively communicated and respond to questions, concerns and issues with diligence. These experiences will carry forward with me as pledge master and will enhance my capabilities in running this position.

In addition, I have attended all the sectionals during my spring term. At each sectional I sat in on all the pledge master roundtables and I have learned a lot about how other chapters run their pledging program. It has given me insight on how to enhance our program for the better and has given me a greater understanding of what this position entails. I have done a lot of research into what would work best by reaching out to past Alpha Kappa pledge masters and pledge masters from various chapters. I fully understand all the challenges, battles and difficulties this position will encounter, but at the same time being aware of these situations has provided me with sufficient understanding to take on this position.

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?

Currently my time at USC has been invested within APO. I have balance my schedule so that I can take on a heavy position such as pledge master and ensuring that the pledge class will receive all of my time and energy.