

Fall 2020 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY, April 19th 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, April 19th 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: Andrew Anhao Li

Year: Junior

Major: Neuroscience

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Xi

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): Elliot Cha

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?

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 and character traits when it was really a matter of lacking in my confidence and values. I had initially assumed that it would be 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 did meet in rushing that motivated me to come out of my comfort zone again and make me repeat what I did again hoping that people's perceptions of me would change. 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, and 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. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus crisis, I was not able to implement many of the ideas that I promised and planned to do when I ran for VP of Fellowship. However, next semester I want to continue the act of spreading love and positivity as the Co-VP of Membership and honor the hard work that Katherine, Justine, and the previous VPs have done to keep and further the inclusiveness and familial bonds that are formed within APO. I want to implement the ideas that I was planning to do as VP of Fellowship and create new events and ideas that members can complete for Membership other than test bank and rate my professor because I want to truly establish the atmosphere of love and acceptance that I felt when I came into this organization.

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. **It is also a position that has a mix of fun events and event planning which is very relatable to my previous position as VP of Fellowship as well as logistical organization which Elliot should have a lot of experience with when he worked as the Sergeant at Arms with Justin Chang.** 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. Taking this into account, I have full confidence that Elliot and I will surpass these expectations because of the substantial amount of experience we have in APO. Elliot and I have both been the past Pledge Class Presidents and both held positions in Excomm that require a large and significant amount of planning and logistical preparation. As VP of Fellowship I had to coordinate a multitude of events during Rush that required me to potentially have to plan to 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 lot of Fellowship Series this

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. Furthermore, as SAA along with his experience with business organization and Alpha Kappa Psi, Elliot has also developed a keen sense of logistical planning as he has completed many behind the scenes tasks that helped Justin Chang run a successful semester. Both Elliot and I have also been the previous PCPs which allowed us to have a better sense of how to organize and plan things at an efficient rate and pace.

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 fact 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 whether that be bonding events or some sort of competition. 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 incorporate large events where everyone can participate in and have fun without thinking that they are not skilled or included enough to participate. We 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. Because of this, we will place more of an emphasis on Actives vs. Pledges competitions that have started to die out during our time in APO.

We also wanted to implement a planning timeline so that members can be reassured that we have the resources and capability to handle the duties of Membership. Please see below what we have organized so far:

Summer Planning (June 2020 - August 2020):

- Send out **membership surveys**
- Contact service leaders for **Leadership Dinner** (Rush Event)
- Start compiling data for the **MasterDoc**
- Reach out to alumni to gauge interest in on-campus alumni events
- Communicate with the new President to see if there is anything (s)he wants to change/enforce
- Work with finance to determine Membership budget
- After receiving budget, gather/buy supplies necessary to conduct activities
- Introduce **LEADS conference** on AK Facebook page
- Collaborate with Fellowship to come up with new activities

Recruitment (August 2020 - September 2020):

- Coordinate with Rush to properly distribute Rush 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.)
- Buy any other supplies needed for activities

New Member Education Period (October 2020 - December 2020):

- Conduct the majority of our membership events (**Pledges VS. Actives, Blind Dates, Workshops, Interview Mixers**)
- Register pledges with the national chapter
- Introduce new events (car wash, pledge class reunions, APO Leads)
- Work with SEC to plan activities during Retreat
- Family competitions reintroduced
- Work on **Pairings** with Pledge Team and President
- Conduct **Mid-Semester Reviews**

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, or memorable. Conversely, Elliot's personal strengths stem from an organizational and logistical perspective. **Together, I believe that the combination of our diverse outlooks and perspectives will work to our advantage. While I can manage and organize the majority of the "more fun" pledge membership events, Elliot can perform more of the logistical duties such as registering pledges with the national chapter, organizing various workshops, and communicating with the President on administrative matters.** This does not mean that we are solely separating duties, but we are both working on enforcing ideas and creating new events that will only benefit the active chapter as a collective unit. Below are some of the following ideas that we have amassed so far:

- **APO LEADS Conference (Launch, Explore, Achieve, Discover, Serve)**

APO LEADS is a leadership development workshop that is by the national APO office that has not been utilized for our chapter since we started. This workshop is offered at a multitude of conferences such as Sectionals, Regionals, and Nationals that can help improve the image and notoriety of our chapter at USC. This workshop will be worth three membership points and IC points because only members that attend the conferences can attend them. We want to integrate LEADS by first introducing LAUNCH, which is the first part of the program that can be taken online. This opportunity will greatly benefit the chapter because it will open up the possibility of many other scholarships that we can apply for because many of them have prerequisites where the organization must have members that have completed the LEADS program. This will allow us to obtain more funding for service activities and help reduce membership dues.

- **Pledge Class Reunions**

This is an opportunity for members for the previous pledge classes to spend time with each other again. They will be similar to the pledge nights that the pledge teams host with the pledge classes during their pledging semester. These can be hosted by either the pledge team of that class or by a member of that pledge class as well and can be hosted either in public places (TCC, Village, Dinner) or at someone's home. If necessary, I will be able to host them as well at the place I am staying at next year.

- **Increased involvement with Academic Mentors**

Academic mentors have been a mainstay in APO; however, I do feel that there is little enforcement/encouragement for academic mentors to be truly involved. I want to implement an academic mentor/mentee group study hall. This group study hall session will be open to everyone; however, academic mentors and mentees are highly encouraged to attend. There are bound to be people who

are/have taken the same classes, so people can rely on each other for academic assistance. Additionally, I am open to organizing a professional mixer simulation so that pledges and actives alike can practice networking with each other and learn more about their pursued professions. Volunteer academic advisors can also be present in order to help with course planning and completing graduation requirements. Once again, these events will be not mandatory but highly encouraged, especially for academic mentors.

- **Car Wash Event**

This is an event that I was never able to complete while I was still VP of Fellowship because of the coronavirus outbreak. However, we will still be planning for it to be an event that can be paired with Finance where people can sign up to wash cars and APO members can choose to have their car washed for a selected price. The members who sign up can choose to wear a predetermined uniform or normal clothing and gain both a fellowship and fundraising point for participating. Those who buy a carwash can sit on the side or inside their cars and watch. The cleanliness of the vehicle cannot be completely guaranteed, but it is the experience that they are paying for more. Furthermore, we will both be living in a townhouse next semester that has space where the car wash can be completed, so it should not be an issue.

- **Miscellaneous Fun Small Activities During GBM**

These events will compose of some quick and fun objectives during GBM to make it more fun and interesting and help the Actives and new Pledges get more acquainted with each other. This can range from a multitude of activities such as Kahoot games as well as holiday themed games for Halloween and Christmas where we give out candy or arrange White Elephant or Secret Santa events.

- **Bring Back Activities Past Membership Chairs Have Done**

This will include events such as Funtivities, Lovebook, Family Competitions, Active vs. Pledges Events, Professional Workshops, and Blind Dates. These are some things that have highlighted a lot of positive memories in my own APO experience, but have started to fade away with time. I want to incorporate more physical events that members can have the option to do and actually have fun with.

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 a lot of leadership and fellowship-based experience 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 in performing acts or talking about information to large groups of people and creating an atmosphere of laughs and positivity. From both of these positions, I learned to be able 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. This semester, I served as the VP of Fellowship which was also a role in which logistical planning is 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. I also established many new Fellowship Series like Flabs to Abs and Sugoi Desu! (Anime Watching) that I hope to continue in future semesters. I also implemented a new 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. Furthermore, I was always very punctual when I updated the Master Doc and always submitted the points as soon as I received the Lead Form or was notified of who attended.

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 as well as been able to complete all of my responsibilities as VP of Fellowship, as I created 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 for them to attend. Because I have improved my time management skills, I know that I have the ability to balance all of my commitments and distribute responsibilities to my Co-VP Chair Elliot Cha when things become difficult.

Current Commitments:

Lab Research
Hospital Volunteer
Zetas
Scout