



## 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 24<sup>TH</sup> at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com) and [webmaster.apousc@gmail.com](mailto: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 26<sup>TH</sup> at 11:59pm** to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com). You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Joseph Russ

Year: Senior

Major: Religion & Classics

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Gammas (Fall 2013)

**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?**

For APO, I envision a stronger culture not only of service, but of pursuit of the variety of virtues APO stands for in our daily lives. I hope to see people become better people because of their involvement in APO, living by the Cardinal Principles, the Scout Oath and Law, and the Vision and Purpose in their daily lives. I want to ignite the passion for excellence in all that we do, and restore a pride in being a member of this fraternity, a pride that both inspires us to do our best in all our endeavors, and to involve ourselves in all that the chapter is doing. I hope to help create an atmosphere where people are excited to go above and beyond on requirements, embodying the spirit of service not only while doing service, but at meetings, in class, and every moment of their lives.

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

I want to serve as VP of Membership because this position is responsible for creating the culture of our chapter, and defining what it means to be a member of this organization. As such, I feel this position is one of the most influential in bringing about my vision for APO. In our chapter, we have a crisis of disinterest and laziness, a culture that will continue to influence incoming pledges regardless of how passionate they are when the semester begins. With a strong VP of Membership, Pledge Team and President, hopefully we can work to build a stronger spirit of service and passion. I feel I am ideal for VP of Membership, as this position is most involved with creating the spirit of service within the active body. With my own dedication to this spirit, along with my infectious enthusiasm and inspiring passion, I am best suited to help bring about this transformation.

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

My goals are to make my vision a reality, to involve members even more in what's happening in the chapter and to motivate people to take pride in representing our chapter. I hope to instill pride in our values and thereby increase participation in chapter events. Specifically, I want to increase driver participation, inspire more members to complete requirements (and go above and beyond), and develop a stronger commitment to APO's values amongst members. The last will ideally create a stronger and more positive image of APO on the campus as a force for good.

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

Most importantly, I will fully commit to the principles of APO myself, and I will display this commitment with passion and joy, inspiring others to embrace these principles as well. In addition, I will engage with members constantly, always working to inspire them on a personal level. I believe that until the Executive Committee leads the effort to redefine our chapter, and leads on a personal level, inspiring other members to do the same, no amount of policy change or new events will have the transformation I envision. Other ideas include perhaps spotlighting members for other aspects of APO, celebrating individuals for their commitment to any of the Cardinal Principles, perhaps the Scout Law or the Four Fields of Service, implementing a system for submitting nominations similar to (or perhaps included in) the Servicer of the Week nomination form. Perhaps setting up some forum for anonymous (or not anonymous) discussion, so people can be in dialogue about chapter issues, rather than submitting anonymous evaluations which may not have an impact or response, and don't always open up conversations inviting the entire chapter to participate. In addition, we should make information about what Pledges and Executive Committee are doing even more readily accessible to the point of being too obvious to miss. Even a weekly Facebook post updating people on the status of other parts of the fraternity could help, as it would be even more accessible. Finally, increasing participation in committees will involve people further. Offering Membership points for participation may help, but I think Executive Committee needs to work together, involving each other 100% in encouraging people to join committees, again, on a very personal level.

**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.**

Through my academics and extracurriculars, I have honed my organization and time management skills, evident in my schoolwork and in the way I managed my other commitments (several of which I am an officer in) while still serving as Pledge Uncle and participating in over 50 service hours. That is the minimum for the position. What truly makes me extraordinary is my enthusiasm and zeal, which inspires those around me. It is this zeal that has made me such a successful President of Interfaith Council, drawing new members, drastically increasing the programs we put on, and engaging the campus as a whole through booths on Trousdale and events that included anyone on campus, both building visibility, creating a strong, positive image, and involving club members in the activities. I also started my own Bible Study group, which required passion and enthusiasm as we struggled to set ourselves apart from other Christian groups on campus and attract members despite the lack of any paid staff assisting (as other Christian groups have). My ability to not only dramatically change the culture and involvement of members in an existing club, but to start my own display my skills in inspiring others. Skills necessary for the position and for the vision I seek to accomplish.

**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?**

I will be President of Interfaith Council and Church of the Broken Bread, and I will be a member of the Ballroom Dance Team, USC Traditional Games Society and Secular Student Fellowship. I have an internship working part time with the United University Church, and a job with Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) which will take place four weekends out of the year. I will balance these commitments with my expert time management skills, committing to each as each needs my commitment, and taking small breaks from certain groups as I need to commit less. Other than my job with IFYC, it is the same set of commitments I had this past semester, when I served as Pledge Uncle (arguably one of the most time consuming positions) and still remained deeply involved in the fraternity (e.g. completing over 50 service hours).