



## Spring 2016 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2016 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than FRIDAY November 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com) and cc [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:** Cody Lim

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Biomedical Engineering (EE Emphasis)

**Pledge Class (Year):** Alpha Epsilon Fall 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?**

To me, APO is a place where people from all backgrounds can come together, united by a passion for service and where people can use that very passion to start and maintain lasting, meaningful relationships with their fellow brothers. There are few in this chapter with awe-inspiring passion; however, I would like for there to be more. I recognize that I am not part of the few that go above and beyond each and every semester and as a fellow brother, I feel as if I have not doing my part to give unselfishly of my time and energy to better this organization. But at the end of this semester, I found myself enlivened by the very same passion for service that convinced me to rush APO back in Fall 2014. Having said that, I envision APO as a fraternity whose members have all rediscovered the very passion for service that convinced them to rush to begin with; in other words, I want the candle, that is ourselves, to be ignited by a passion for service that shines bright for semesters to come.

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

I want to be pledgemaster because I recognize how pivotal of a role I would play in shaping the pledges' mentality. From the very beginning, I want to instill the idea that doing service and making friends within and outside our chapter should not be seen as requirements needed to be completed by the end of the semester, but rather as an indication for how much they have accomplished; coming out to events should never be seen as a chore. I want to make sure that the passion that they joined this organization with never dies down during their pledging semester, and do my best to keep it as strong as it originally was, if not stronger, when they cross into activehood.

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

I want to be a role model and show the pledges the joy in helping others. I want them to understand the impact that they are making in people's lives as they go out to serve the members of our community. I want them to understand the power of a simple "Thank You"; having your heart warmed up by two simple words is an incredible experience and it is something I would like to help others feel too. I want them to understand that individual experiences are what make life beautiful and the experience and memories we get from helping others are one of a kind. I want them to understand that they are making good use of their time by helping others. I want to do all this so that whenever they start to waver and lose sight of why they joined APO, they will have a plethora of memories to fall back to in order to remind themselves why they do what they do. I never want them wishing that they were doing something else while doing service.

I want to create a sense of family among the pledges. I want them to rely on each other and support each other and have them understand that they are not struggling alone. Among roughly thirty people, there will be at least one who has experienced and gotten over a struggle that one of their pledge brothers may experience during the semester; I want them to feel close to the point where that struggle is revealed by one brother to all and advice is given out by anyone who can relate. I want to minimize the cliqueness so that no pledge ever feels left out. I want the pledges to be comfortable enough with the pledge team that they will approach the

pledgemaster/pauncles (more so the pauncles) with personal problems as well. I want them to enjoy spending time with each other. Lastly, at initiation, after receiving their service pins, I want the pledges to huddle up briefly and just take a moment so that they can all understand what they accomplished and feel ecstatic that they finished as a group. I want them to understand that they are a team not because they were forced to work together but rather because they respected, trusted, and cared for each other.

I want to provide equal opportunity for pledges to gain leadership experience. I want the pledges to at least attempt to be a leader before deciding whether or not they are meant to be leaders; too often do people undersell themselves and pass quick judgments on who they are and are not. I want them to understand that there is no right way of being a leader, but only an end goal to which they must come to. I want them to understand that their opinions do matter and are heard by the active body and do my best to show them that they are heard. I want them to pitch in their ideas about pledging so that their pledging semester is an experience that they can recall of fondly; I am open to listening to criticism or remarks that they may have and want to create an environment in which they are comfortable enough to voice those criticisms and remarks. I want them to understand that even without a direct leadership position, opinions can be voiced and will be listened to by the pledge team.

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

A big issue I want to tackle is the mentality with which we approach service events. Right now, service events are often seen as something we attend in order to finish active requirements for the semester and I would like to change that. What I believe would be an efficient way in tackling this problem is to make sure the new pledges never see it that way. My idea is to have the pledges commit to a weekly service event at the beginning of the semester and have them follow through with that commitment. The spring pledging semester is ten weeks, and so I would have the first two weeks be used as a time for pledges to explore the many weekly service events APO offers; the events I had in mind are “32<sup>nd</sup> St. tutoring”, “Jordan Downs”, “A community place”, “IMPACTO”, “MNM”, “GWHFC”, and “KFK”. At the end of the two weeks, I expect each pledge to have either committed to an event or alerted the pledge team of time conflicts that prevent them from attending any of the aforementioned events; those pledges with time conflicts will have to be accommodated for and I hope to work with the VP of Service in order to set up repeating events on the weekends so that they can commit to one as well. Following this commitment, I want to make it a requirement that pledges attend at least four of the eight events for said service event. By having the pledges commit to an event, I hope to have them understand the beauty in repetition; to start a relationship with another human being and see the relationship grow every week is unforgettable. To have a student from 32<sup>nd</sup> St. to remember your name and get excited to spend some time with you as you help them with their work or even have an adult living on the streets at Skid Row recognize you as you serve them food and open up to you as they eat are memories that make you want to keep coming back and helping them. What I hope to accomplish by having pledges commit to an event is to have them get more and more excited to attend these events and improve the mentality with which we approach service. As a side note, I realize that events like MNM and GWHFC have a smaller cap and I hope to work with the VP

of Service and either up the cap or approach the problem logistically and set a fixed number of spots aside for the pledges who have committed to the event; Although I believe that the pledges who have decided to commit to MNM or GWHFC deserve priority, I do not want the idea that other actives, associates, and pledges cannot attend these events. When the specific problem arises, I hope to work closely with the VP of Service and address it so both parties are left satisfied. Lastly, I want to be clear that just because they commit to one event does not mean that they are unable to attend any other service events; they are free to do so.

This semester, I particularly want to emphasize the leadership aspect of pledging; I want the pledges to end the semester to feel as if they have grown in one way or another as a leader. I want to provide all pledges with an opportunity to be a leader and in order to do so, I plan on splitting up the pledge class into five groups of six (assuming thirty pledges). Every week, there will be an interview check or a quiz; I split the pledge class into five groups of six so that I can choose one pledge from each group to be responsible for the other five pledges in that same group. If it is the week of a quiz, then I expect each of the five leaders to hold a study group with all members present, unless a member has already notified the pledge team that they absolutely cannot make it. I also expect them to lead the study, show proof of said study, make sure all members pass, and check up on the other group leaders' progress as well. If it is the week of an interview check, then I expect all five leaders to make sure that adequate progress is being made. I want the leaders to periodically check in on each member; if a member is seen struggling with interviews, then I want the group leader to coordinate with other leaders to see if they can help that member in any way, whether it be making time for an interview or finding some other member in a different group that is also struggling for an interview. I want them to work as a team and always watch each other's backs so that they never fail an interview check or a quiz. Every week, I will change the groups and select different leaders. By changing the group, I have the pledges interacting with new pledges every week as well as have each pledge experience a different group dynamic to show them that leadership can take any form. By splitting them into groups, I give every pledge a chance to demonstrate his or her unique ideas of what it is like to be a leader and give them an experience to reflect upon.

Lastly, building off the idea of pledge night, I want to have fireside chats where the pledge team and pledges can come together and just talk about anything. Ideally, it is a time when we are all just there to listen to each other and respect everything said. It would be a time where the pledgemaster can explain his or her policies comprehensibly and have the pledges understand why they are doing some things. It is a time to voice and heed any discomfort the pledges may feel. I want to show the pledges that the pledge team does really care what the pledges think and that everything will be listened to and addressed. It is also a time and place where anyone should be comfortable to voice any personal struggles they may have run into recently. Sometimes, all people need to feel better is to have a shoulder to cry on or a pair of ears to listen to them and I want the pledges relying on each other during those times. It is a time to be intimate and vulnerable and I hope to use it as a stepping-stone to great relationships between everyone.

**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 took up several leadership positions in the past whether it is as a teacher or as a soccer coach. As a coach, I worked with younger division athletes and alongside the head coach in order to help improve each athlete's skill and make sure that team moral was always positive. I had been in their position before so it helped me greatly when I saw some athletes struggling and getting frustrated over the fact that they were struggling. Because I was the struggling athlete before, I was able to relate and be patient and understanding; I realized that skill does not accumulate overnight and because I had a coach help me become better, I stood alongside many kids and watched as they began to master the fundamentals of soccer. What I took from being a coach is that everyone works at different paces, and although some may be slower than others, that does not make him or her any less deserving of the same patience you give someone who learns quickly. I understand what it means to be supportive and the importance of being patient; if I did not have a figure like that in my life, I would never have grown to love soccer. Likewise, I want to be supportive and patient with pledges, and just be alongside them as they grow to love doing service with their brothers.

**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?**

The only other time commitment I have, apart from academics, is work. I have already taken reduced hours at work to free up my schedule and with the proper planning, I should have no problem in balancing my duty as pledgemaster, academics, and work. I plan to utilize google calendar to its full extent in order to make sure that all time commitments are unforgotten and addressed.