



Fall 2016 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 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. Slides are due by **SUNDAY, APRIL 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: Amy Zhao

Year: Junior

Major: Global Health

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?

My vision for APO is to refocus the organization and reorient it around service. I want to see that the cardinal principles of LFS are seen in everything we do. My vision of APO is one where each event we host or participate in incorporates at least two aspects of LFS. I want to see fellowship in service. I want to see leadership in friendship. I believe that in many cases, APO works to focus on developing each of the cardinal principles separate; however, I believe in integrating all three of them together and see how they play together dynamically.

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

Pledgemaster: Ever since I neared crossing, I knew that I wanted to be pledgemaster. My pledgemaster truly made an impact on me and inspired me to be a better leader. It was her leadership style that inspired me to be a better leader. It was her dedication to service not only in service events, but also to the chapter, that made me want to be as generous as well. I easily take on mentoring roles and I love mentoring not only on a one-to-one, but also in group settings. I've noticed that after picking up twice, that I've better understood what it means to be part of a pledge class. I remember very clearly that when I was a pledge, I thought about finishing requirements more than trying to better connect with my pledge class. I now realize how selfish that is and through my littles and from other friends I have made in pledge classes after mine that the pledging program is not only about fostering leadership, friendship, and service within individuals, but also teaching them how to work together in a group and to help support one another. It is about trusting one another and sticking to one another when times are difficult. I want to be able to continue that vision and keep the pledging program to focus more towards group efforts and teamwork as well as individual development. I want the pledges to love this organization and be proud of what it stands for. I want to pass on my passion for service as well as the leadership skills I have gained and the friendships I have made.

VP of Service: Service was the main reason I wanted to join APO. Over time, however, I have noticed that the chapter's focus has become less about service. As VP of Service, I want to be able to help the chapter refocus on service. I want to help the chapter view service not as a chore or a requirement, but something that is enjoyable and valuable to their lives as well as the lives of those we serve. I want to help remind the chapter that one of the reasons APO is so unique to other service organizations is the variety of service we participate in. I want to help the chapter combine their passions into a passion for service. I also want APO to have a larger presence on campus. We do amazing work in the community that I want to be known on campus.

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

Pledgemaster: My goal as pledgemaster is to first and foremost help the pledges cross. My goal is to make pledging a memorable and enjoyable time for them that also teaches them a lot. My pledging semester taught me time management and so I would love to be able to pass on these skills through developing the pledge education program. Secondly, I would want to help the pledge class understand what it means to be a part of a pledge class and not just a pledge. I want to develop a sense of community within the pledge class where people can rely on each other and support each other. Thirdly, my goal is to help the pledges understand why they are in APO and to be proud of the organization they represent. It is important to me that the pledges retain their passion for service and helping the community and to be proud of why they pledged and made a commitment.

VP of Service: As VP of Service, my main goal would be to help the chapter reorient itself around service, as it was founded to do so. To achieve this main goal, my specific goals would be to help people understand why they are doing service, to challenge the chapter in doing more meaningful service, and to establish more service events. I want to really show the chapter that service is an integral part of our lives and it doesn't need to feel like it's a requirement. It is something that should be enjoyed and doesn't have to feel like you're checking something off a list. Service is enjoyable. It is natural. It comes in different forms. I would want the chapter to understand that, help them realize this, and thus in turn reorient the chapter around service.

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

Pledgemaster: As pledgemaster, I want to add more components to the pledge education such as community education. I believe that it is important for the pledges to recognize and do their best to understand the experiences of those we serve. I would have the pledges either do a funtivity or pledge mission that focuses on this aspect of community education. Some examples would be to take the metro over Ubering or to interview community members from service events we participate in such as the kids at Kid City or someone at Homeless Ministry. I want the pledges and also the active body to better understand why it is so important that we serve and why service is so important. My hope is also that this would be able to help the pledges be more conscious about service even after pledging and establish a more personal connection to service that retains their attendance to service events.

As pledgemaster, I also want to maintain open and clear communication as well. I want to be able to host "office hours" where members of the chapter would be able to come and propose suggestions and concerns. I want to create an open and safe space where people can communicate directly.

I also want to help incorporate applications of LFS into the pledge education program. I want to better educate the pledges about what it means to apply LFS beyond pledging and as an active. I want to educate the pledges about behavior at service events, leadership skills, and how to be a friend for those in the chapter and around us. We are a leadership development organization and I want, as pledgemaster, to live up to that goal and mission and implement workshops during pledge meeting to include these aspects of leadership development.

Because the pledge education program is about being a pledge class, as well as a pledge, I want to be able to better incorporate the teamwork aspect of pledging into the pledge program. I want to continue the group set-up currently in place to emphasize teamwork, support, and trust in the pledge class. I want to further expand on this idea as well, however, by doing mini "blind dates" within the pledge class so that they can better understand and meet each other.

VP of Service: First and foremost, I want to be able to continue service invite-type events throughout the semester. They can be more small-scale events such as the ones that we do for PR during rush. This would also then increase our PR throughout the semester and embed the idea of APO into potential rushes before rush even starts. I have talked to my friends outside of APO about APO and one of the things one of my friends mentioned was that she wished she rushed APO, but now she's a graduating senior. However, she also mentioned that she wished that APO would have more service invite-like events that would be open to people outside of APO. Not only would this provide others a chance to engage in service, but it would also showcase APO on campus and help people come to understand that APO is more than just a fraternity. It truly embodies service as one of its cardinal values. I think that this past semester, the different PR events such as blanket making and sandwich making were excellent in showing a small glimpse as to what APO is about and should be continued outside of rush. These events should be preparing people to truly consider rushing APO in the following semester.

Some examples of events I have are continuing sandwich making, blanket making, card making, and any of our other overflow or PR rush events. I also want to create new events such as assembling care packages to be delivered to Skid Row and Greater West Hollywood biweekly, assembling care packages for siblings and kids in long-term hospital care, writing letters to people in retirement homes, hosting events with ESA for sustainability, working with RHTHM to play music in hospitals, hosting book drives to be delivered to our education organizations, and making dog toys for the German Shepherds at Westside German Shepherd Rescue. There could also be more large-scale events beyond just KEDS such as a version of KEDS for senior citizens to help them maintain their independence and also learn skills such as how to navigate the bus lines around LA or a version of KEDS with children with disabilities such as autism so they have opportunities for other forms of education as well. I want to be able to work with the philanthropy co-chairs to make these possible.

I also want to be able to make some of our current weekly service events more integrated with other cardinal principles, namely fellowship. I believe that our fellowship events should be more service-oriented as well. I want to be able to make events such as Westside German Shepherd Rescue and Fur Baby more fellowship related as well. I want to be able to work with the VP of Fellowship to make this possible, that way brothers in the chapter would be able to see that our cardinal principles do not have to exist alone in their each category. They can easily be integrated together and better help brothers in our chapter develop these three principles and live them out in life outside of APO and even beyond college.

I also want to create some new events for APO and expand the fields of service that we work with. For example, I want us to be able to work more with the elderly population or with children with disabilities. I would research organizations in the area and contact people as to how we can create monthly or weekly events to go and volunteer there. Many people in APO have varying interests and I feel that by expanding our fields of service, more and more people would be able to find how service is integrated into their own lives. Some organizations I already have in mind are Homeboy Industries (I have friends who have interned at Homeboy before so I would have specific contacts), Special Olympics Los Angeles, and more senior center homes near USC.

I also would want to encourage people to go to more of our weekly service events outside of the times we have scheduled, such as 32nd Street School Tutoring, Monday Night Mission, and Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition. I also want to reward people for taking on additional roles in organizations, such as becoming a mentor at Kid City. I want to reward people for going above and beyond in these areas.

With all these new ideas, I also want to keep some older ideas such as weekly service forms, weekly reflection questions, and servicer of the week to keep people accountable and rewarded for going above and beyond.

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.

Within APO, I was pledge secretary and played a role in creating the pledge service event of salsa night, something that as philanthropy co-chair, I want to continue and expand. I have played a role in event planning before when working in Trojan Family Weekend as the SCamp coordinator. As the SCamp coordinator, I was in charge of organizing activities for children ages 10-15 on campus during Trojan Family Weekend. This required innovation, understanding of what children liked, and also patience and flexibility. This experience taught me how to plan an event and also take care of any issues that arose. These are all things that I noticed are necessary for events such as KEDS. I also have volunteered as a development intern at Starlight Children's Foundation where I researched non-profit development and played a key role in organizing the current holiday campaign, #GIVEActually. I was the one who came up with the idea for the campaign. This experience also gave me insight into how non-profits work and how to best work with them and facilities such as hospitals to be able to help them the most. I also have volunteer

experience in areas of service that have not been as explored by USC such as playing music for people with dementia and Alzheimer's and volunteering in acute rehabilitation wards in hospitals. I have connections there and these experiences have also taught me how to work with people and how to host any large-scale events. I also am now interning at Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles where I am learning to communicate with people about sensitive issues, especially when shadowing helpline calls. Furthermore, in my lab, I have also mentored high school students that intern with us over the summer and have experience in mentoring a group. I also am a current Kid City mentor and have developed a close relationship with my mentee based on trust and understanding.

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?

In terms of other commitments, I will be continuing my research at the Brain and Creativity Institute (5-6 hours per week) and continuing my position as historian of the Pre-OT Club. The Pre-OT Club only meets two times per month and any additional site visits are not all mandatory, especially since many run during class time. Furthermore, for my classes, I do not have any Friday classes. I believe that there is more than enough time for me to do my duties as an e-board member and to finish all of my requirements and go beyond them. I will be also applying to OT school at this time; however, with the schools I am applying to, there is not a need to go and travel like with medical school. I will be available and accessible.