



## Fall 2018 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2018 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 15<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 .

**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 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM** 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: Nikki Jao

Year: Sophomore

Major: Business Administration

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Iota (Fall 2016)

**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
- ☐ IC Chair

Name of person you are running with (leave blank if no running partners):

Pann Boonbaichaiyapruck

## **PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is your vision for APO?**

My vision for Alpha Phi Omega is for the organization to be a place of meaningful activity. While we are a community service fraternity, I understand that everyone comes to and stays in APO for different reasons – service events, irreplaceable friendships, and leadership opportunities, to name a few – and I love that about our organization. We offer such a variety of events to attend and participate in, with our most recent addition of diversity and inclusion events. Whether it be a service event or a membership event, these experiences lend themselves to the growth of each member of our organization and ultimately contribute to the growth of our chapter.

I personally have gotten a lot out of my experience in APO – and I want others to feel the same. I hope that all actives, associates, and pledges feel that their money is going towards worthwhile events and activities; to feel that what they are paying for is worth their money. Ultimately, I hope all members feel that their efforts are paying off and are contributing to the betterment of this organization, and that they gain something in return, too.

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

I am running for the position of VP of Finance to learn more about the financial operations of APO, and to contribute some of my own ideas to the improvement of the position and organization.

As VP of Service, I got a sneak peek at how some of the money moves within our organization – but I still don't fully understand it. I would like to serve as our fraternity's VP of Finance so that I can learn, in total, about how our organization functions and stays financially solvent. I am curious to learn where our money is going; I am not interested in this knowledge only for myself, but to also educate active members and be able to answer correctly when they pay their dues and ask, "What's my money going towards?"

Additionally, I feel that I have some actionable ideas to improve the position and our chapter. In particular, I feel that my ideas (see below in question #4) will improve how we communicate the management of our finances to the rest of the chapter. I am running with Pann for this position, who has previous experience with finance as her pledge class' fundraising chair. I believe the two of us have the necessary skillset to use the chapter's money purposefully and to achieve tangible results.

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

I think a big responsibility of VP of Finance is to promote transparency and to foster trust. We're asking our members to pay a lot of money (relative to other APO chapters in our region, and in the United States). It is only fair for VPs of Finance to openly notify APO members how and why their money is being used. In addition to letting members know where their money goes, transparency can lead to increased levels of trust in our organization – which I believe is essential to the betterment and continuation of our organization. Pann and I are committed to building a trusting relationship between us and the active body. Whether that means answering Facebook messages about payment plans or conscientiously managing our Venmo account, we want members to trust that we will use their money as we say we will, and that we don't spend it frivolously.

Aside from building trust, transparency has other tangible benefits. One point we can be transparent about is the Uber fund we've allocated as a chapter to provide rides to service events. If we're going to depend on Uber as much as we have in this past semester, then we should let our members know how much we have spent, and how much more we can spend on rides in the future. If we have an updated count of how much we've spent on Uber, then it might also

incentivize members to drive more to save money for our chapter. This is one way that transparency can benefit our chapter.

Another goal we have, if elected to serve as VPs of Finance, is to keep our organization financially solvent as VPs have done in recent semesters. We do not want to cause our organization and its members stress with the possibility of deficit and are committed to doing what is necessary to keep our organization going smoothly.

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

In general, we plan to continue the efforts of past VPs of Finance, as they have proven effective and profitable. For example, current VPs of Finance Elizabeth and Grace created a fundraising calendar for the spring semester in advance. We will create a similar calendar for the fall term to adhere to.

Otherwise, our new ideas include:

- Selling APO merchandise, not simply within our organization but also externally
  - o Merchandise can range from t-shirts to water bottles. Every submission for a design for merchandise can count towards family points, thus incentivizing design submissions.
- Pledge dues breakdown during information sessions during rush
  - o We have heard concerns about new rushes attending information sessions, and deciding not to rush due to the shocking price of pledge dues. \$340 is definitely a lot if you don't know what it goes towards! To mitigate this concern, we want to encourage rush co-chairs (co-directors of recruitment) to properly explain and provide a breakdown of pledge dues to rushees so that they may know this beforehand. We do not want to discourage any student from rushing simply because of the money.
- Communication of Uber fund to active body
  - o We all know there is an Uber fund to provide rides to service events, but just how much is there? We would like to actively update this fund and communicate how much we've spent every GBM to the active body.
- Allocating more money to Leadership Dinner, Alumni Dinner, and Mocktails
  - o In particular, we feel that we can spend more money on Leadership Dinner and Mocktails as these are events held during rush, open to the public. By allowing VPs of Membership and Fellowship to spend more money on these events, we can hold "nicer" events that communicate our professionalism to the rushees. In making these events "nicer" (i.e. better food, held in more professional settings), we are also aiding our organization's PR by making these events seem more professional.
- Possible scholarship for those expressing financial need
  - o We have discussed this idea with current VPs of Finance, and we understand that it may bring up many problems (i.e. how do we provide *everyone* who needs money with money? How do we accurately determine "financial need"?). We admit this idea needs perfecting and is nowhere near implementation, but we plan on getting the active body's input to hopefully make it a reality.
  - o Pann and I would like to propose a scholarship application, in which students who do need money will have to fill out an application and go through an extensive process to truly demonstrate their financial need.

**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.**

My most relevant experience comes from this past semester serving as VP of Service. In particular, it was our constant need for drivers and to dip into the Uber fund that sparked my interest in understanding the financial situation of our organization. In general, serving as VP of

Service has taught me how to work with and collaborate with other members of our E-Board, such as with the President, Public Relations Chair, and the VP of Communications. In our weekly Serve Comm meetings, I have also learned to share work and responsibilities with our Philanthropy Co-chairs. In these experiences, I learned to hold productive discussions and effectively resolve problems.

I have practiced these soft skills in other environments as well. This past year, I worked as a research assistant, collaborating with my peers in team settings to accomplish long-term goals and complete immediate tasks. Research teams were diverse in background and in academics, as research assistants hailed from various graduate programs and majors. It provided a challenge: to work effectively with people of polar opposite views, upbringing, and academic interests. I believe that when different opinions arise on how to use our money, my past experience holding difficult conversations may aid me in resolving our differences.

**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?**

This past semester, I served as VP of Service while taking a maximum load of 18 units and serving as a Lead Research Assistant in the Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Research Lab. Next semester, I plan on greatly reducing my extracurricular responsibilities (i.e. stepping down from my leadership role in the SPEC Research Lab) to focus on my schoolwork. Additionally, I will only be taking 14 units of classes, with no classes on Fridays. This will allow me more time in my schedule than ever before to direct to the responsibilities of this position as necessary.