

Fall 2014 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2014 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than THURSDAY, April 24TH at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to webmaster.apousc@gmail.com . PDF is preferred.

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 27st at 11:59AM** to communications.apousc@gmail.com . You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Cameron Plunkett
Year: Junior
Major: English/Economics
Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Beta Spring 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 and what are your goals for the position? What new ideas can you bring?

I envision an AK chapter of APO for which winning the Service Organization of the Year award at the Tommies is something to be expected. A chapter which is not only recognized as the premier service organization on campus, but as an organization whose unity and effectiveness others aspire to reach. A chapter that gets the most possible out of its members for its own ends, then turns those members out into the school and community to expand and multiply its impact.

For the position of Pledgemaster, I would like to institute two significant policy changes, as well as a broader mentality change. The first policy change would be to lighten the time commitment of pledging while simultaneously fostering greater meaningful bonding between pledges and actives. This would be accomplished by reducing the number of active interviews down to 20, but enforcing a strict policy of what constitutes a true interview. Simply asking 9

questions and jotting down the answers will not cut it. Pledges will have to actually participate in a meaningful activity with the active (eating, playing basketball, walking around campus, talking in a private room at the campus center, etc.), and include a description of what was done. Actives will be told to refuse signatures unless they feel the pledge dedicated meaningful time and energy getting to know them, and that they in turn got to know the pledge well. Though that is ostensibly already a policy, we know it isn't actually enforced. I will bring renewed emphasis to it. The second policy change would be to include an additional requirement for pledging semester wherein each pledge must submit a written account of themselves performing one instance each of leadership, friendship, and service. This would encourage introspective thought throughout the semester, plus a broader pledging experience by forcing pledges to deal with a principle of APO which they do not feel they are as strong in. Finally, a general change in mentality will be instituted as a focus on accountability. From the git-go I will emphasize accountability to self and to pledge-brother, stating in the very first meeting that each individual pledge is responsible for the performance of the whole. Though this is already a minor point of the pledging semester, I wish to bring it to the spotlight, as I believe it is one of the few things that can simultaneously improve individual performance and group unity.

For the position of VP of Service, I wish to attract a broader range of members by instituting weekly service projects of a different variety than our normal focus on children and poverty. Obviously I will retain the normal weekly projects, but include an environmental one (like the Rain Garden) and/or a creative one (hospital performances, etc.). Additionally, I will include more one-off service events, which always seem to attract the most interest because of their peculiarity. But the main issue facing the VP of Service has traditionally not been number of projects, but number of participants. I will make it my goal to take an active role in the Executive Board, not merely providing updates on service projects, but encouragement to participate in a way I believe I am uniquely capable of doing. This will occur by way of featuring an informative slide on a particular weekly project at each GBM, and by periodically commending members for exceptional service. Additionally, I will continue the trend of combining forces with other service organizations, and look into ways to get non-service organizations to perform service with us (for instance, a trail clean-up with SC Outfitters).

1. What are two positive qualities that you lack and how do you compensate for these shortcomings?

I can have a hard time connecting with people, since the things which are important to me are often not very important to others (and vice versa). I try to make up for this by forging camaraderie by way of humor. Sometimes, particularly in more serious situations, this does not work though. Then I usually have to find something within the issue the person is having which is vaguely similar to something that I care about, and hammer some empathy out of that. Failing that, I am normally able to get myself to care about what they care about by focusing on how I care about *them*, even if I don't care about their issue.

I also lack an ability to cool my temper effectively. When I get angry, I can be brutal. I have discovered that the best way to handle this is essentially to almost never get angry. I have been able to control my emotions to the point where I am almost never in a bad mood, no matter what. Sometimes, though, a bit of anger peeps out, usually for warranted reasons (for instance if somebody in my group on a group project fails to deliver on their part). When it does I do my best to remove myself from the situation so that I can do no harm. If, as sometimes but rarely happens, I am not able to, I do everything I can to make up for it to whoever I insulted or yelled at by being exceptionally kind to them afterward. Normally that involves many nice words and chocolate, even if I think I was in the right, since I have found that most relationships, however tenuous, are more important than whatever slights hurt them.

1. 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.

Pledgemaster: Mentored incoming freshmen in high school in a way meant to succeed academically and to encourage independence, so that they could continue to succeed in my absence. Practiced balancing strict rule enforcement with compassionate understanding as Sergeant-At-Arms. Member of an improvisational comedy troupe called Spoiler Alert which has

given me great practice in handling unexpected conflict and situations, and in addressing an audience clearly and engagingly.

VP of Service: As a head coach in a neighborhood soccer league for two years, I have experience dealing with a wide range of people with different needs and goals to organize and manage service groups and events. As Sergeant-At-Arms, gained experience handling the Master Doc. As a college student applying for internships, I learned audacity in the face of receiving no response, which should help as I reach out to as many potential service organizations as possible.

1. 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 hope to be on the Frisbee team, continue maintaining my long-distance relationship, and continue to perform with Spoiler Alert. I will balance Executive Board duties with these by a tiered hierarchy of obligation, at the top of which will be my commitment to APO as an elected, trusted leader.

1. Why are you the best candidate for this position?

Pledgemaster: Being Pledgemaster requires a strange combination of character. One must be at once a rock which pledges can depend on for anything, an enforcer who keeps them focused, in-line, and motivated, and a watchful observer who is capable of stepping back and letting them learn to handle themselves. I believe my personality type fits perfectly with these needs. Furthermore, my ideas for pledging have a unique ability to meet a combination of goals which have often been stated for the pledging semester, but are usually to disparate to both be met: less stress in the pledging process and greater unity within the pledge class and between pledges and actives.

VP of Service: I have a clearly demonstrated ability to handle the behind-the-scenes work which normally defines the Service VP. I am dedicated and punctual enough to handle a great deal of coordination. I am active enough to reach out to many potential service programs and groups over the whole course of the semester. Many people are. What sets me apart, though, is my unique personality's ability to handle an aspect of the position which has often been overlooked: the voice of enthusiasm and encouragement which fills up the service events rather than just set them up.

Don't forget to attach your résumé and schedule.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Elected Board Questionnaire. Please be sure to send in your election slide(s) no later than Sunday, April 27th at 11:59AM. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact president.apouse@gmail.com.

Good luck! ☒