



## Fall 2017 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2017 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apouse@gmail.com](mailto:president.apouse@gmail.com) and cc webmaster.apouse@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 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM** to [president.apouse@gmail.com](mailto:president.apouse@gmail.com). You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Julian Turner

Year: Sophomore

Major: Industrial & Systems Engineering

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Theta (Spring '17)

**Please mark which elected position(s) you are running for with an X:**

- ☒ [ 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?**

I envision APO as a vehicle for empowerment for all of those involved with it, whether as a member or as an individual helped by the fraternity's endeavors. As we have all learned throughout our respective pledging processes, APO is an organization that aims to develop leadership and friendship through service. In my opinion, a leader is someone who works to change the issues they see in the world. These issues can be as large as a government lacking fair representation of its peoples or as small as there not being any gender-neutral bathrooms in the Viterbi School of Engineering. Effective leadership relies on a dedication to the people you are leading and the stories they must tell – this is my definition of service. And in this, I sometimes feel as if the chapter is lacking. Completing 25 service hours a semester is great, but developing a sense of care and respect for the people/things affected by your work are what motivate you to give even more of yourself to the cause. For this reason, I would like to see APO move towards being an organization that helps its members find what they care about, and then gives them the power to make their desired changes.

Being one of the largest, most efficient student organizations on campus, APO has the potential to become an intrinsic, appreciated member of community-serving efforts on campus. We have already expanded our involvements in the time that I have been involved with the chapter, but I foresee it expanding more. I envision a time where other student orgs utilize us as a resource of motivated individuals in their endeavors to change the world for the better. I want other organizations on campus to know that APO is here for them. Furthermore, I envision an APO full of committed, insightful mentorship (both official and unofficial) programs where older members are genuinely invested in younger members, whether they're their little or not. Every single member of the chapter matters, makes an impact, and deserves a say and I would like the atmosphere to reflect that through open dialogue and a constant, respectful sharing of opinions and experiences. Expanding beyond solely our chapter, I envision an APO where members are more involved in and enthusiastic about general fraternity matters such as voting on the locations of sectionals and for the changes of national by-laws. I also hope to see an APO that inspires its members to get involved in politics. I do not want our chapter to assign ourselves to any political party as a whole, but I do want our members to feel empowered to get involved in politics themselves. I foresee this being done through a myriad of ways including service events helping marches, membership events listening to political candidates, and events visiting local community meetings. We already have presidential alumni, I think it is only fitting that the community of APO continues fostering that spirit of leadership on the national scale.

First and foremost, before everything else, I see a chapter that supports each and every one of its members. This can be done multiple ways. The most obvious way is by diversifying our pledge classes and thus our chapter. Another way is through continually hosting events that focus on underrepresented communities. Examples may include hosting programs with the Los Angeles LGBT Resource Center, the Black Student Assembly, El Centro Chicano, the multi-cultural frats, etc. My ideal

APO is one that doesn't simply aim at increasing diversity in the chapter through numbers, but also by helping members already in the chapter see some of the realities of different people from various backgrounds. Finally, to sum it all up, I envision an APO that teaches its members the importance of the people they're serving, which will result in a greater enthusiasm for leading this world into better days.

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

I aspire to be president of the chapter because I am the type of person that likes to be involved in the entire process. In other words, I work best when I am overlooking the entire machine and making sure each part is running as efficiently as possible. Because of this, I am most effective as a leader when I am working to empower other leaders to reach their maximum potential. The role of president would allow me to make my largest impact for the greater good of the chapter. By empowering and motivating my fellow ex-comm members, I will alleviate pressure from them. This will then create a much more positive atmosphere for the entire chapter because when ex-comm is running smoothly, chapter matters are running smoothly. And if problems arrive, they are handled much more satisfactorily. As president, I would not only be talented at supporting an extremely successful team of people, but it would make me feel fulfilled. And when you're fulfilled in the work you do it motivates you to consistently work harder.

Furthermore, the upcoming semester is a crucial one in this long-term goal of changing the demographics and stereotypes of APO because a significant portion of the current active body will no longer be here. As the president of APO, I will have a unique set of already established personal relationships and connections with the people and organizations that we as a chapter will be reaching out to in these diversity endeavors. I have friends on/direct connections to the executive boards for student organizations such as the Black Student Assembly (BSA), Queer and Ally Student Assembly (QuASA), Queers in Engineering, Science, and Technology (QuEST), and Black Excellence And More (BEAM Podcast). Furthermore, I have friends in the leadership positions of multicultural frats. These are all avenues that can be used not only for recruitment but also for advice on service events and community happenings that would otherwise go under our radar. Being president would afford me the ample opportunity to most effectively use these resources to help ex-comm accomplish their goals for the chapter.

Most importantly, I would like this position because I have already done my research. I have talked discussed the realities of being president with past presidents. I have also talked to every single position on the current ex-comm about their positions, what their responsible for, and what they would like to see change moving forward. In specific presidential responsibilities, I have already discussed with previous membership chairs effective and ineffective pairing processes. I am extremely close to one of the current rush-chairs so I had already been in constant contact with rush about the role they would like to see a president play in rush. I am

also extremely close to the three previous pledge masters and I have discussed with them what type of president they would like to see in relation to cultivating a successful pledge class. After research the position, I am still extremely dedicated and I know that I am adept at the required tasks.

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

My goals:

- a. I will create an environment on ex-comm in which all members feel comfortable and respected enough to communicate with each other personally on issues or things they may need from each other. If the members cannot come to a consensus that satisfies both parties, then I will act as a liaison and facilitate effective communication.
- b. I will establish clear expectations for both myself and my ex-comm members.
- c. I will motivate my ex-comm members to set measurable goals for their individual positions by the beginning of August (before the semester even begins).
- d. I will continue/expand the new tradition of week of service.
- e. I will motivate the chapter to be more involved in general-fraternity matters such as fall-fellowship, sectionals, and regionals.
- f. I will encourage an environment that challenges blindly following tradition on the following principle: if we want the chapter to change, we must change the way we run it.
- g. I will create an environment where alumni and/or previous ex-comm members still get to share their insights with the current generation and take on an unofficial advisory role when asked.
- h. I will reinvigorate the family spirit in the chapter through increased family competitions and a push from pledge team.
- i. I will work with ex-comm and the chapter to find us additional faculty advisors.
- j. I will make myself known as a resource of support to pledge team and pledges to ensure that no one de-pledges as a result of not meeting requirements.

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

When thinking of ideas that I would like to implement as president, I reached out to every single position of the current ex-comm as well as brothers that served on previous ex-comms. I asked them what they would like to see change between their president-VP/Chair relationship and what ideas they would like to see implemented. Here I have accumulated the common themes that spoke to me and seemed to appeal the majority of the positions:

- a. I will have a spot on my EBM and GBM slides where I directly ask the members of the chapter what they possibly need me to help them with

during the upcoming week(s). I would like to implement this because as president, the reality is that for most of the semester, there's not many time-consuming things that I'm required to do. So I would like to take that time and resources to alleviate pressures from my ex-comm.

- b. I will lead the chapter in hosting/participating in separate events with at least three other organizations during the semester. This will aid our chapter in our over-arching goal of both diversifying ourselves and expanding our pool of potential-recruits. Furthermore, it would help solidify ourselves as a student organization dedicated to serving the campus, one of the four pillars of service.
- c. I will work with ex-comm to place a potential cap on the number of events that can take place in one day. The purpose of the cap would be to reduce the number of events occurring at the same time, which would reduce the total number of drivers necessary. It would also increase attendance to events that may not otherwise be as "popular," which would increase exposure to new experiences. Furthermore, it would reduce the pressure of taking lead on the pledge class. This can be done in numerous ways such as but not limited to:
  - i. Allocating specified slots to each event type/day (such as 2 slots for service, 2 slots for fellowship, 1 slot for IC, etc. per day)
  - ii. Setting a hard limit that would simply be first-come, first-serve so once X number of events are scheduled for a certain day, no other events can take place.
  - iii. (Related specifically to pledges taking lead) simply setting a cap on how many events pledges must take lead for.
- d. I will work with webmaster to fix the reminder system on the event page. After speaking to the current webmaster, it became known to me that there is a system that automatically reminds you when you've signed up for an event. However, it does not work for most of the chapter it seems. So we would work to fix that system, which would reduce flakes through people forgetting they signed up for an event.
- e. I want to work on the following changes with fundraising specifically:
  - iv. I would like to find a budget for fam heads. The budget would undoubtedly be significantly smaller than anything on ex-comm, but it would greatly aid in their DTA planning and such.
  - v. I would like to have a complete breakdown of where money from dues goes and make the breakdown known to the chapter.
  - vi. I would like to increase the chapter's involvement in pooling fundraising ideas.
  - vii. I would like to have a budget check halfway through the semester.
- f. I will like to include a short, but informative slide/fact/something of the sort during my slide(s) at GBM relating to the history of the people we serve. Such as information about what caused Skid Row or the current refugee crisis. I

feel like this would really help spur understanding and interest in the communities we serve, which would foster a further commitment to leadership in the positive direction.

- g. I will work with ex-comm to motivate more actives to sign up to drive. Ideas include:
  - a. Speaking with VP of Service to give drivers service hours for driving. My reasoning behind this is that they're doing service to the chapter. However, we can cap the number of hours they're allowed to receive from driving in order to reduce the chance of individuals simply getting their service hour requirement from being a shuttle service.
  - b. Working with finance to possibly pay drivers for gas monthly as opposed to the end of the semester.
- 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 have had numerous positions throughout the last few years that I feel prepared me for the realities of being the president of a student organization of this caliber. I will go in chronological order and explain the relevancies.

  - a. Gay Straight Alliance Founder/President

In senior year of high school, I established my county's first gay-straight alliance in deep south Louisiana. In this role, I learned the importance of being seen as "the face" of an organization. Furthermore, starting an organization from scratch has afforded me the opportunity to see the cruciality of having a set order of expectations to follow. Most importantly, it taught me the importance of living through whatever decision you make and understanding the reality of the potential consequences.
  - b. President of Webb Tower

In my role of president of Webb Tower during my freshman year, I learned that you cannot accept a position just for the title. A title is not what will motivate you to keep working at it when you want to give up. When I ran for my bid as president, I did it for the wrong reasons. And because of that, I failed. I am highlighting this because the reality is that we all fail, but what we learn from those failures are what defines us. After that instance, I took some time to think about what I cared about in life and how I could get involved in my passions; not just in titles.
  - c. Pledge-Class/Active Inter-Chapter Chair

The semester after the Webb Tower president debacle, I joined APO. And ever since joining, I have remained dedicated to seeing it reach its full-potential. My roles as Pledge-Class and Active IC Chair have taught me the realities of ex-comm and leading this organization from both the "smaller" pledge side and the imposing active side. I have learned the importance of being able to think on my feet when events do not go as planned. I have learned the

importance of earning respect while not taking respect away from others. I have learned the importance of establishing a system of people that I can rely on but always being able to rely on myself as well. Most importantly, I have learned how dedicated I am to the success of this chapter. I was never supposed to be the active IC chair. The reality is that I just happened to be at that GBM and if I wouldn't have gone up to give that speech then no one could have blamed me. But I knew that we needed an IC chair and I knew that I had the skillset to be what the chapter needed in that moment. Following suit, I know that I have the skillset to be the president the chapter needs in this moment.

d. Point Foundation Scholar

Point Foundation is the largest queer scholarship organization in the country and only 40 out of 2000 applicants are chosen each year to be scholars. The organization chooses its scholars based upon their desire to serve their communities and become future leaders: similar to the goals of APO. By being a part of this network of leaders, innovators, and activists, I am in constant contact with people that are doing service to their communities and the world. These contacts range from LA all the way to China. With these contacts, I will be able to further my goal of using service to cultivate a chapter full of leaders that will greatly impact this world.

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?**

For the 2017-2018 school year, I will have the following commitments

- a. Community Outreach Chair for QuEST: This will only require about an hour of my time/week because QuEST is an extremely small organization with only about 12 members. Furthermore, I am hoping to use this connection to aid in building a bridge between APO and QuEST and hopefully work on service projects in the community together.
- b. Residential Assistant: I will be an RA for **upperclassmen** next semester which means I will not actually have to spend much time at home at all. I would just have to be available to be on call for one night every few weeks on a rotating schedule. Being on call simply means I must be in the USC area, it does not mean I must be *in* my building. Even better, because it's the one night every few weeks, I will be able to plan ahead and swap shifts around if need be.