



## Spring 2017 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

### INSTRUCTIONS

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY November 27<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](mailto: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, November 27<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: Amy Zhao

Year: Senior

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?**

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. 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.

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

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.

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

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.

**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. I was also VP of Service this past semester where I led service committee and maintained communication with various organizations within and outside of the chapter. I also am currently co-President of the Pre-OT Club where I oversee other e-board members and work with a diverse group of people. 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 co-President 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 also will not necessarily be applying for OT schools since I should be receiving decisions before the end of the calendar year. Also pending decisions I may not have class on Mondays either.