



Fall 2015 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2015 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than FRIDAY APRIL 24TH at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apousc@gmail.com and 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 26TH at 11:59pm** 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: Jeremy Tsai

Year: Senior

Major: Business Administration / Finance

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?

To provide an efficient and informative communications channel inclusive to all

stakeholders of Alpha Phi Omega in a non-hostile, candid environment that fosters coherent values and visions of Alpha Phi Omega as a whole internally and externally.

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

This would be my last semester at USC and possibly America as a whole. I devote myself entirely to the benefit of the organization that I have called home and people within it whom I have called brothers. Being historian in 2015 spring definitely prepared this step-up to take up a larger role in the organization. Historian is about making videos and capturing moments to showcase what APO does and who we are as a premiere service organization. This involves attention to small, minor details as well as technical skills that comes along with the job description. However, I would like to move onto a more all-rounded, leadership role within the organization in order to greatly influence the culture, atmosphere and dynamics of Alpha Phi Omega especially in the arenas of communication.

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

(see number 1 and 4)

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

***General Body Meeting (GBMs)**

The general consensus of the general meetings is mundane and long at times. The goal is to strike a balance between being informative and fun at the same time.

The first order would be shuffling the presentation order instead of just adhering to the previous semesters VPs' selection. They will be grouped according to their functions (and committees), for example everyone in Comm Team would go last (as historian sums up the entire meeting). This is to avoid duplication and confusion among even eBoard members, and to increase coherence in the message in each team.

The second order would be eliminating all mundane information that could be posted online or a simple slide that does not require any extra explanation. For example: VP of fellowship going through each and every upcoming event in the coming week.

The third order is specifically tailored to VP of Communications and addresses the lack of communication between the general body and the eBoard in general. Towards the end of the VP of communications presentation a round of Q&A / Discussion would be held (in 10 minutes max) on a topic that is raised through anonymous evaluations at the selection of the Comm team. It mimics the round table at sectionals / other meetings at other chapters. This would allow the comm team to be more involved in the process of linking the eboard to the general body and vice versa. This facilitates any discussion and concerns between everybody and finds an immediate response and / or resolution at the discretion of everybody. In addition, this will provide a platform for members to speak up instead of being anonymous and keeps accountability and record.

***Comm Team Meetings (might apply to other committee meetings)**

There is a lack of attendance and involvement from the general body in comm teams, which contribute to the problem of lack of communications and coherence in the organization as a whole. So in order to tackle this problem, I propose not only setting and requiring all teams to be on the same time decided by popular vote, but also offering extra optional meetings via video messaging means of communication (by function). Any members who are not able to attend (or travel) can use these video messaging to be involved and be kept in the loop. The goal is to involve as many people as possible. But in general I would like to apply that to specifically to Comm team to facilitate faster and more efficient meetings.

***Advisor and External Communications**

Sadly our advisor is leaving our organization due to a lack of communication and involvement on either side. She felt it was really hard to keep track of what we do and faces uncertainty and doubt when asked / trying to tell other people about it. Therefore, the goal next semester is to (after finding a new advisor) be to really serve as the primary facilitator between him/her and the organization. Each week's minutes would be sent to the advisor (along the video). The new advisor would also be invited to sit in our meetings every week plus a special Q&A session once every month if possible. There she can answer any questions from you and also have the opportunity to ask our general body questions. The role of VP of Communications is to keep the contact and prevent any similar incidents of falling off the organization to happen again.

As for externally it is agreed upon that the organization should reach out more to other organizations and let them be aware of what we do and who we are as an organization. In order to accomplish this I propose to create a shorter version / summary (and allowable) of our weekly meeting to IC chapters and selected outside organizations. The comm team as a whole will reach out to as many organizations as possible and build the bridge and connection among us.

***Town Hall and Elections**

I am unaware who handles this arena (possibly Sergeant at Arms), however, I would propose that the Comm team to be more involved in this area. Town hall holds the possibility and future of the next generations and incoming pledge classes, therefore it is essential to accomplish, change and discuss immediate concerns. I advise to let members alter their vision / proposal during the town hall voting (for example, historian and web master are both positions that people agree the new incoming pledge class should be allowed to run for, however, the entire proposal failed as a whole because PR chair is not; this specifically stuns the process of growth in APO).

As for elections this methods would be seek to ensure efficiency, at the same time informative to let members be aware of visions and goals of each candidate. Therefore, an optional video opportunity limited to three minutes would be offered to every candidate so their platform and vision could be presented to the entire chapter. Members who are interested in these could therefore go onto this video to look at it more in depth. This can also eliminate any confusion among people, shortening the discussion during elections. In addition, candidates would also be able to be more prepared to answer any unanswered questions.

***Possible online forum and Q&A**

I will be working with the webmasters to attempt coming up with a new online forum to facilitate more discussions and communications between the executive board, members of the fraternity and among brothers. This will solve the problem of accountability and the available of information that people can cite through.

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 been on EBoard twice ever since I have finished pledging back in 2013, including VP of Finance in Spring 2014 and more recently historian in the past semester (Spring 2015). I believe that my experience on eBoard has made me more aware of the internal affairs of APO, as well as the chance to serve the general body through individual and teamwork along the semester. Since it is almost the end of this semester, the experience accumulated within the communications team and the position itself has prepared me to take an even larger role in the organization.

Other relevant experience might be my largely involvement in social media and any means of communication. You can find me on any media platform more or less, especially on Instagram and through my personal website and blog.

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 time commitments I do not have a lot of units to cover in completion of my minor. Again, my previous involvements in APO has already proven I am apt in balancing my duties with my academic / social life.