



## Fall 2020 Executive Board Application

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2020 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than SUNDAY, APRIL 19th 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](mailto: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. If you are running all or nothing for a co position, you may share a speech with your running mate and have **up to two slides**. If you are not running all or nothing, you must have a separate speech and slide. Slides are due by **SUNDAY APRIL 19th at 11:59 PM** to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com). No changes to your slide may be made after this date. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

### PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

**Name:** Elliot Cha

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Business Administration & Accounting; Minor in Music Production

**Pledge Class (Year):** Alpha Omicron (Fall 2019)

**Will you have finished your requirements by April 27<sup>th</sup>?:** Yes (I have already finished)

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

☐ President

☐ Pledgemaster

☐ VP of Service

☒ **Co-VP of Membership**

☐ VP of Fellowship

☐ Co-VP of Finance

☐ VP of Communications

☐ IC Chair

Name of person you are running with (leave blank if no running partners): Andrew Anhao Li  
Are you running all or nothing (leave blank if not applicable)?: Yes

## PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

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

From the moment I was elected Pledge Class President, I knew that I wanted to be truly involved in Alpha Phi Omega and enact real and positive change in its operations. As PCP and SAA, I have been able to enforce bylaws and work with Excomm members to help run GBMs and other events. I have been fortunate enough to experience what I feel is a gradual increase in ExComm involvement, from PCP to SAA. I feel that the next logical step is to apply for a position that I believe can not only enforce the rules but also have the capability to make a positive difference. Simply put, I see the VP of Membership position as an extension of the responsibilities I previously held with additional responsibilities. **As a potential VP of Membership, I believe that one of the main responsibilities is to serve as a bridge between the general active chapter and ExComm. Members deserve to have their opinions heard, and as a representative of all of the members in Alpha Phi Omega, I will work to make sure that the active chapter is both represented and informed of all important decisions.** I have often felt that as a pledge and active member, I did not feel that all of the facts were presented to me objectively. This is not a secret - APO talks, and gossip can create harmful repercussions. I believe that if there is something that has the potential to affect the majority of APO, then the active chapter deserves to be presented with all of the facts objectively without having to jump to any conclusions. Additionally, I feel that transparency actually bonds everyone closer together. There is no withholding of information that makes one active feel less important than another active. Everyone knows the exact same amount of information, and we can then have a healthy dialogue (most likely during EBM's when all members are welcome to join) to decide how to move forward.

One area of transparency that I have already enacted was in the form of a Town Hall proposal that was passed last semester. Because of the situation of my pledging semester, I wanted to make all pledging strikes visible on the MasterDoc in order to hold each pledge accountable. This was never meant as a negative consequence, rather, I saw it as an opportunity to allow others to reach out and help wherever needed. Although this current pledging semester was cut short, it is nevertheless encouraging to see that there is no pledge with no more than 1 strike at this point in the semester. This is just one form of transparency that I wanted to highlight, but as a VP of Membership, we all have the potential to speak up and enact change when necessary. Knowing what it is like from both sides, I want to serve as that bridge of information and communication. It is important that we all hold ourselves accountable, and with an unpredictable semester ahead, I am more than willing to lead these important conversations and have all of Alpha Kappa feel both included and involved.

### 2. What is your vision for APO and what are your goals for the position(s)?

Co-VP of Membership has traditionally been a position that requires very intense logistical and planning skills. **I believe that Andrew and I surpass these expectations because of the sheer amount of experience we have in APO.** Andrew and I have both been the past two Pledge Class Presidents, and we both held positions in Excomm that require a large and significant amount of planning and logistical preparation. All of these positions thus far have helped us to obtain a better sense of organization and how to plan events at our very maximum. As Sergeant-at-Arms, along with my experience with Alpha Kappa Psi, I have also developed a keen sense of logistical planning, as I have organized many systemized efforts behind the scenes that have helped Justin Chang run a successful semester. As VP of Fellowship, Andrew had to coordinate a multitude of events during Rush that required me to potentially have to plan to accommodate over 100 people (Fellowship BBQ, Hike, Hot Chocolate, S'mores). This included logistical factors such as purchasing food, planning rides, and finding a location

that could sustain a group that large. Furthermore, he has also incorporated many new things into APO that previously disappeared such as the APO Compliments Page and placed a great emphasis on his Fellowship Series this semester. This trend of actively creating events that members can be a part of is a trend that I would greatly like to continue with Andrew as Co-VP of Membership.

My vision for APO is to try to bring the members closer together, especially the ones who feel as if it is hard to be as incorporated within the chapter. I realize that there are many barriers that can prevent people from becoming closer such as the family that one is in, socioeconomic barriers, and cultural differences. Therefore, I would like to try to incorporate events in which people can introduce themselves to each other and participate in some sort of activity which brings them closer together. My vision and goals as the Co-VP of Membership are to essentially spread the acceptance and sense of family to all members of APO in order to prevent them from feeling excluded or left out. Because APO has already offered me timeless friendships and so much more, I would like to reciprocate that sentiment to all of the members to ensure that we can all gain what each individual is looking for in APO. I would also like to continue smaller-grouped events where that sense of intimacy between groups of people can still be cultured and developed. Because of this, I will place more of an emphasis on Actives vs. Pledges competitions that have started to die out during my time in APO.

**Finally, I wanted to reemphasize my movement towards transparency with the active chapter.** My personal vision for APO includes having everyone feeling included, especially with important decisions. I want to increase our active member attendance during EBM, and potentially rewarding membership points to any non-ExComm member who shows up to 5 EBMs during the semester. I encourage active members to reach out to Andrew and I if you have any concerns about anything, and we will be sure to take your suggestions seriously.

We also wanted to implement a planning timeline so that members can be reassured that we have the resources and capability to handle the duties of Membership. Please see below what we have organized so far:

#### **Summer Planning (June 2020 - August 2020):**

- Send out **membership surveys**
- Contact service leaders for **Leadership Dinner** (Rush Event)
- Start compiling data for the **MasterDoc**
- Reach out to alumni to gauge interest in on-campus alumni events
- Communicate with the new President to see if there is anything (s)he wants to change/enforce
- Work with finance to determine Membership budget
- After receiving budget, gather/buy supplies necessary to conduct activities
- Introduce **LEADS conference** on AK Facebook page
- Collaborate with Fellowship to come up with new activities

#### **Recruitment (August 2020 - September 2020):**

- Coordinate with Rush to properly distribute Rush T-shirts
- Host **Leadership Dinner**
- Finish compiling the **MasterDoc**
- Send out an optional membership survey to actives in order to bring up any issues/concerns that they may have in the new semester
- Start planning small GBM activities (Kahoot, Lovebook, etc.)
- Buy any other supplies needed for activities

### **New Member Education Period (October 2020 - December 2020):**

- Conduct the majority of our membership events (**Pledges VS. Actives, Blind Dates, Workshops, Interview Mixers**)
  - Register pledges with the national chapter
  - Introduce new events (car wash, pledge class reunions, APO Leads)
  - Work with SEC to plan activities during Retreat
  - Family competitions reintroduced
  - Work on **Pairings** with Pledge Team and President
  - Conduct **Mid-Semester Reviews**
3. **What new ideas can you bring to the position and organization as a whole? Please provide examples.**

**While Andrew's strengths lie in his creativity, my personal strengths stem from an organizational and logistical perspective.** That being said, I believe that our combination of exciting creativity and a structured balance can result in a fun semester for every single one of us. While I foresee Andrew organizing the majority of the "more fun" pledge membership events, I see myself performing more logistical duties such as registering pledges with the national chapter, organizing various workshops, and communicating with the President on administrative matters. However, that does not mean that we are solely separating duties. We are both working on enforcing ideas and creating new events that will only benefit the active chapter, and we are doing so as a collective unit. Please see the following ideas that we have amassed so far:

- **APO LEADS Conference (Launch, Explore, Achieve, Discover, Serve)**

APO LEADS is a leadership development workshop that is by the national APO office that has not been utilized for our chapter since we started. This workshop is offered at a multitude of conferences such as Sectionals, Regionals, and Nationals that can help improve the image and notoriety of our chapter at USC. This workshop will be worth three membership points and IC points because only members that attend the conferences can attend them. We want to integrate LEADS by first introducing LAUNCH, which is the first part of the program that can be taken online. This opportunity will greatly benefit the chapter because it will open up the possibility of many other scholarships that we can apply for because many of them have prerequisites where the organization must have members that have completed the LEADS program. This will allow us to obtain more funding for service activities and help reduce membership dues.

- **Pledge Class Reunions**

This is an opportunity for members of older and previous pledge classes to spend time with each other again. They will be similar to the pledge nights that the pledge teams host with the pledge classes during their pledging semester. These can be hosted by either the pledge team of that class or by a member of that pledge class as well and can be hosted either in public places (TCC, Village, Dinner) or at someone's home. If necessary, Andrew will be able to host them as well at the place that he is staying at next year.

- **Increased involvement with Academic Mentors**

Academic mentors have been a mainstay in APO; however, I do feel that there is little enforcement/encouragement for academic mentors to be truly involved. I want to implement an academic mentor/mentee group study hall. This group study hall session will be open to everyone; however, academic mentors and mentees are highly encouraged to attend. There are bound to be people who are/have taken the same classes, so people can rely on each other for academic assistance. Additionally, I

am open to organizing a professional mixer simulation so that pledges and actives alike can practice networking with each other and learn more about their pursued professions. Volunteer academic advisors can also be present in order to help with course planning and completing graduation requirements. Once again, these events will be not mandatory but highly encouraged, especially for academic mentors.

- **Car Wash Event**

This is an event that Andrew was never able to complete while he was still VP of Fellowship because of the coronavirus outbreak. However, we will still be planning for it to be an event that can be paired with Finance where people can sign up to wash cars and APO members can choose to have their car washed for a selected price. The members who sign up can choose to wear a predetermined uniform or normal clothing and gain both a fellowship and fundraising point for participating. Those who buy a carwash can sit on the side or inside their cars and watch. The cleanliness of the vehicle cannot be completely guaranteed, but it is the experience that they are paying for more. Furthermore, Andrew and I will be living in a townhouse next semester that has space where the car wash can be completed, so it should not be an issue.

- **Miscellaneous Fun Small Activities During GBM**

These events will compose of some quick and fun objectives during GBM to make it more fun and interesting and help the Actives and new Pledges get more acquainted with each other. This can range from a multitude of activities such as Kahoot games as well as holiday themed games for Halloween and Christmas where we give out candy or arrange White Elephant or Secret Santa events.

- **Bring Back Activities Past Membership Chairs Have Done**

This will include events such as Funtivities, Lovebook, Family Competitions, Active vs. Pledges Events, Professional Workshops, and Blind Dates. These are some things that have highlighted a lot of positive memories in my own APO experience, but have started to fade away with time. We want to incorporate more physical events that members can have the option to do and actually have fun with.

4. **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.**

- a. **Alpha Phi Omega - Alpha Pi Sergeant at Arms:** As SAA, I have worked closely with Justin, our Alpha Pi President, with conducting meetings and other logistical efforts such as Town Halls, amending the Bylaws, and Pinning. Because of this, I do feel that I have had the experience of organizing events and coordinating efforts where needed. Working closely with Justin has also solidified my understanding of how ExComm functions. With my duties already including enforcement of the rules and attendance of all EBMs, I feel that I have had enough experience as a pledge and ExComm member to properly navigate my potential new position.
- b. **Alpha Phi Omega - Alpha Omicron Pledge Class President:** I was fortunate enough to be elected as Pledge Class President because of my previous experience pledging Alpha Kappa Psi. While I understood that no two organizations are the same, I do know that pledges are held to a certain standard, and I did everything in my power to help each and every one of my pledge brothers achieve that goal. I checked in with each pledge brother, organized binder check partners, assisted other Pledge Excomm positions whenever needed, and served as an open line of communication throughout the entire semester. Some may say that I was a bit harsh, but I do feel like I did what was necessary to cross as a class. With this experience and mandatory attendance of all EBMs, I feel that my understanding of the pledging dynamics is extensive, and I can utilize that knowledge

and leadership skills that I developed into crafting my own vision as a Co-VP of Membership.

- c. **Alpha Kappa Psi - Spring 2020 Vice President of Membership's Professional Chair:** Alpha Kappa Psi also has their own VP of Membership, and I had the opportunity to collaborate with Kent Shiu in order to create professional events for both pledges and actives. I have held various professional workshops (resumes, cover letters, networking, etc.) and conducted resume critiques when requested. I always felt respected and heard whenever I worked with Kent, and I will apply those same leadership qualities should I be elected. With my experience in event planning and upholding pledge and active standards, I believe that I can bring similar events to APO.
  - d. **Alpha Kappa Psi - Fall 2019 Social Affairs Committee Member:** I wanted to highlight my experience in event planning with my involvement in this committee. We were in charge of hosting a formal event for the active chapter and the initiation/demitting ceremony for pledges and demitters. I have had to book Airbnb properties, gather supplies, and coordinate with other Eboard members' schedules to make sure that all events were feasible to attend. My skills in communication, event planning, and organization were utilized, and those are all qualities that I can apply to my potential position as Co-VP of Membership.
5. **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?**

The only other major position that I might be holding (depends on the result of the election) is an executive board position in Alpha Kappa Psi called Master of Rituals. From what I have gathered from the previous Master of Rituals, most of my work will be remote and the only events that I will have to attend are the Executive Board meetings and some pledging events (3 at the very most). Other small commitments include my part time job with the ITA learning center (2-4 hours/week) and my role as a Deloitte Campus Ambassador (1-2 events/semester). I plan on delegating most of my extracurricular time in Alpha Phi Omega, as I know that a lot of responsibility falls into the role of VP of Membership. In the past, I have pledged Alpha Kappa Psi while working a part time job and pledged Alpha Phi Omega as PCP while fulfilling my role as an Alpha Kappa Psi Social Affairs committee member and recruiting for finance internships. I was able to fulfill all of my obligations in a timely manner, and I have no doubt that I can do the same with this new position. With proper delegation, time management, and the art of multitasking, the Alpha Kappa chapter need not worry that I will uphold all of my obligations, should I be elected as a Co-VP of Membership.