



Elected Board Application Fall 2021

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2021 schedule** with this application (class, work, other extracurricular activities). All executive board members must be able to accommodate executive board meetings (EBMs) and general body meetings (GBMS) in their Monday night schedules unless this is later changed by the **Fall 2021** Executive Board.

Applications are due **no later than Wednesday, April 14th at 11:59 PM PST. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please send this document with all supplemental materials to President (president.apousc@gmail.com) and cc Seargent-at-Arms (seargentatarms@gmail.com) and Webmaster (webmaster.apousc@gmail.com).

Election Day: Candidates for President and New Member Educator will have 3 minutes to give their speeches. Candidates for all other positions will have 2 minutes.

You may present **1 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 2 slides**. If you are not running all or nothing, you must have a separate speech and slide. Slides are due **no later than Wednesday, April 14th at 11:59 PM PST** to President (president.apousc@gmail.com). No changes to your slide(s) 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: Mel Wang

School Year (Grade): Sophomore

New Member Class (Semester & Year): Alpha Rho / Spring 2021

Major(s): Economics / Mathematics

Minor(s): n/a
E-mail(s): mlwang@usc.edu
Phone Number(s): (812) 325 5086

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

- ☐ President (1)
- ☐ Pledgemaster AKA New Member Educator (1)
- ☐ Co-VP of Finance (2)
- ☐ Co-VP of Membership (2)
- ☒ Diversity & Inclusion Chair (1)
- ☐ Intechapter Chair (1)
- ☐ VP of Communications (1)
- ☐ VP of Fellowship (1)
- ☐ VP of Service (1)

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

** A list of officer descriptions can be found in our [Chapter Bylaws](#) on the APO website.*

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want the position(s) you are running for? Why are you the best candidate for the position(s) you selected?

APO has become a community I've come to care for deeply, most particularly for the reason that it has been the first community I've shown and freely expressed all parts of my identity. I want to continue making APO a community where others can find such comfort, and a campus organization known for being a leader in its effort to unite diverse communities. I've spent a lot of time learning, relearning, and even teaching others about implicit biases, toxic stereotypes, harmful actions, and so much more because of my own unique experiences living in more homogenous communities in the rural Midwest. Most of my life, activities, and goals are directed towards fostering diverse and inclusive environments, a reflection of my own personal passion and drive - which I fully intend on carrying to my position as Diversity and Inclusion Chair.

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

In my eyes, the point of a D&I committee is to create lasting, impactful change by dismantling certain structures or beliefs that promote homogenous and exclusive communities. I want to be sure that the goals I work towards aren't just short-term solutions that alleviate minor issues, but specific and thoughtful ones that ensure diversity and inclusion are an unquestionable priority for APO in the long term.

1. Make sure that we as USC students understand our existence and impact in the South/Central as part of the community, not temporary aliens complacent about how our presence affects the surrounding communities and their lifestyle.
2. Create relationships and partnerships with other organizations on campus.
 - a. Also for the intention of encouraging greater diversity in the recruitment process.
3. Providing an environment where all APO members can safely explore and express all aspects of their identity.
4. Recognize implicit biases and the unforeseen consequences they can have when interacting with members of other racial or marginalized communities.
5. Understanding that being socially conscious is a spectrum, and that there is no full mastery. We are all learning and growing with each other as social constructs like race continue to develop.
6. Recognize the already amazing things that APO has done in providing welcoming spaces where people can feel comfortable!

In continuation, here are some initiatives I am particularly passionate about, and intend on executing as D&I Chair.

1. Getting to Know South/Central LA: Going over culture competency and sensitivity for the South/Central LA community. A super important point in this would be going over USC's hand in gentrifying the nearby neighborhoods, as understanding just how USC's presence has harmed nearby communities I think is especially important when respectfully engaging in nearby community service. (I'd also like to include the time to learn about the Tongva people and the land that was unjustifiably taken from them to create Los Angeles)
2. Privilege and Positionality Workshop: This is a chance for people to not only contextualize their own identities/positionality, but to work on visualizing their privilege to better understand the systemic disadvantages that are not so explicit. A specific area focus would be educational privilege, considering many local schools are in need of extra resources and assistance.
3. Narrative Insights: Getting to hear from marginalized communities about their individual experiences as to better understand, contextualize, and humanize their experiences.

4. Let's talk about Politics! Featuring: (Current Event/Social Issue) : An event where people can come to safely talk about politics and other social issues. It can be to rant, to learn, or whatever people want! Or look at political memes as well.

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

1. I want USC's Alpha Kappa Chapter to not only foster leaders that are well-educated on the issues of Diversity and Inclusion, but to also be a leader to other campus organizations of our organization commitment to be leaders in fostering a more diverse, inclusive, and unified USC campus. We often struggle with obtaining membership of people outside of a couple organizations, and I believe this starts by making sure that other campus organizations get to know APO more personally. I want to help create service projects with various organizations, especially NOVUS as they usually spend one semester to work on a service project as well. I've already reached out to some members, who are willing to do a joint project with APO. I'd like to also spend time working with the Environmental Student Assembly on some campus service projects they have planned.
2. I want to work directly with the VP of Service in making sure that our efforts as a service organization are helping those that need it most. For example, our organization has a lot of service opportunities around Skid Row. I'd like to introduce and create a new partnership with the only shelter in Los Angeles and Skid Row that refuses to turn away any woman that enters their doors. Union Rescue Mission specifically helps and empower women on Skid Row. The experience of living on Skid Row is far from an equal experience for all its residents, especially for women, who require menstruation products and are targeted for sexual attacks.
 - a. By extension, I want to work uniformly with all members of E/A-Board to ensure that the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the forefront of APO efforts and activities.
3. I would like to emphasize mental health and events towards how to approach and move forward regarding mental health issues, particularly in regards to transitioning from online school to in-person events. This includes working with the future webmaster on creating an accessible page for addressing mental health issues and a list of resources to receive mental health help. I want to start a Self-Care series, in which we 1. spend time analyzing our individual stressors and stress management 2. engage in meditation and mindfulness 3. living life in accordance with our personal values 4. self-confidence 5. yoga! 6. so many more!

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.

This past semester I had the opportunity to work as Diversity and Inclusion Representative for my pledge class, which was an amazing learning experience that solidified my passion and desire to continue the efforts that Jun and the committee did this semester. It also familiarized me with a lot of the responsibilities and daily activities of the Diversity and Inclusion Chair. I was able to help plan for (specific coffee chats), and help navigate discussions regarding women and all the intersectionalities that affect different populations.

I'm also a part of an organization called NOVUS Think Tank at USC, a social justice organization aimed at actualizing creative solutions to systemic social challenges. The organization is divided into subgroups with different goals in mind, like Environmental Sustainability and Power Based Harm. This semester, I helped lead and plan on behalf of the Racial Justice Group a narrative insights conversation with USC Professors about the recent Asian American attacks. We spent some time this semester connecting with different groups on campus to help educate and foster conversations on the positionality of the Asian American community, and how the AAPI community has been exploited as perpetual foreigners and a tool to absolve white supremacist America from taking responsibility for the systemic issues facing the Black community. I also helped NOVUS write a formal statement of solidarity for the Asian American community.

In high school, I worked for several congressional, mayoral, and state representative political campaigns. I created a sensitivity training on phone banking and canvassing for underrepresented racial groups within the campaigning districts and trained more than 100 campaign interns with the goal of making local politics accessible to all racial and ethnic groups.

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?

My current time commitments include academic research and NOVUS Think Tank. The way I view and balance my time commitments is in terms of negotiables and non-negotiables. For me, meeting APO's E-Board responsibilities and academics is a non-negotiable going into the fall semester, with academic research and NOVUS as a negotiable activity that I plan on reducing my time commitment for the fall semester, and picking back up after another Diversity Chair is elected.

Don't forget to attach your résumé and schedule!

Thank you for taking the time to apply for APO's elected board. You will be contacted shortly after the submission deadline with more information about elections. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email president.apousc@gmail.com.