



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 Sergeant-at-Arms (sergentatarms.apousc@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: Joshua Zhu

School Year (Grade): Junior

New Member Class (Semester & Year): Alpha Pi (Spring 2020)

Major(s): Business Administration & Psychology

Minor(s): n/a

E-mail(s): joshuazh@usc.edu

Phone Number(s): (626)-673-5853

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?

Alpha Phi Omega has been an integral part of my college experience as it has given me so many opportunities that truly helped me grow into the person I am today. From joining APO during Spring 2020 as an Alpha Pi to becoming a VP of Membership, I have been fortunate enough to experience a gradual increase in my Excomm involvement. From my experiences this year as one of the VPs of Membership, I believe that I can not only increase membership retention with intense logistical and planning skills but also make a positive difference for the organization as a whole. Seeing how past and present members of the organization have made a lasting impact upon my life, I want to give back to Alpha Phi Omega by taking on a larger role in shaping the future of APO.

I want to be President because I truly love this organization and want to continue being involved with it. I believe that my experiences in this organization have led me to gain enough knowledge about the organization to become president. While serving as a VP of Membership this semester, I conducted Midsemester Reviews with every active member, and it has provided me with a unique perspective of a lot of areas that APO could improve on. I strive to make changes in these areas and make APO even more enjoyable for our current and future members. I also acknowledge and respect how much time each ExComm member dedicates to this organization, so I want to make sure that they feel supported and appreciated throughout the semester. I hope to serve as a role model and share my experiences with all current and future members to help promote confidence in the three cardinal principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service.

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

I envision APO as a safe organization where people from various diverse backgrounds come together to make a positive difference in the LA community, create lifelong friendships, and to discover and learn more about themselves. The journey of learning, growth, and the people that have helped me along the way are part of why APO is unique compared to other campus organizations. The APO community here at USC has always been positively changing and evolving as we bring in new members every semester.

As a professional service organization, we should all recognize the importance of service and leadership development. If elected as the next President of APO, I plan on expanding upon APO's professional development and alumni network. Furthermore, I also want to continue increasing our Interchapter relations with other APO chapters and improving diversity awareness within APO. Overall, I want to be the person that is approachable for all members of the chapter to consult with for anything, from improvements they like to see in the chapter to achievements they want to celebrate to simple coffee chats about life.

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

Disclaimer: These are new ideas I have if elected for President. If the members and Fall 2021 ExComm are interested in pursuing these ideas, I will definitely lead the implementation of these new efforts but I am also open to changes or critiques for the idea I have. I plan to survey the chapter to see what would be the ideal next steps and ensure that any new ideas will be in the best interest of the present chapter and future of APO.

Summer Planning (May 2021-August 2021)

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fall 2021 operations will be based on the LA County Department of Public Health and USC health guidelines. I will carefully monitor the progress of COVID-19 as well as being on the lookout for Fall 2021 semester plans and organization guidelines to ensure safety for all members of our organization. If the Fall semester happens to be virtual again, I will be prepared to plan for another virtual semester just like this semester. As a current ExComm member who had first hands-on experience operating a virtual semester, I am confident that I have the experience and knowledge to operate another virtual semester. Given the current trend, it is reasonable to conclude that Fall 2021 will most likely be a hybrid semester. With my experience in APO and serving on Excomm this semester, I know that I have the ability to plan and organize a hybrid semester with the rest of the Executive Committee.

Seeing that there is a potential of a hybrid semester in the Fall, I interviewed numerous Interchapter Chairs about what their chapter is planning for a hybrid semester as well as the chapter that is currently doing a hybrid semester. Some chapters include Cornell University (currently hybrid), UCLA, UCSD, UCSB, UCR, CSUF, and CSULA. As President, I will be in constant communication with presidents from other chapters during the summer as well.

Fall Fellowship

This semester, we did a good job of increasing our IC retention within Alpha Kappa and I hope to further strengthen Alpha Kappa's relationships with chapters around Region B and create a new sense of pride for the Alpha Kappa chapter and build a name for Alpha Kappa within the IC world. Fall Fellowship is a great way to improve **membership and IC retention**. From a membership perspective, many of our actives tend to go associate or inactive because they think that they've experienced all that APO has to offer. After going through one's first active semester after pledging, many of our events seem to be repetitive. For me, however, IC events opened up a whole exciting world of new leadership, fellowship, and service events with new friends. Meeting ICs in a comfortable location like Fall Fellowship would be perfect to engage our chapter with these new ICs in an environment where fellowship events are taking place. I plan on working closely with our Fall 2021 Convention Coordinators so that our Fall Fellowship conference will be the best it can possibly be.

I also plan on working with the future Co-VPs of Finance on various fundraising opportunities. Fall Fellowship presents for us a unique opportunity to fundraise money for our chapter and possibly donate to other organizations. We could charge ICs approximately \$10-\$15 to attend Fall Fellowship (depending on Finance).

Alpha Pi and Alpha Rho In-Person Initiation

Because the Alpha Pi pledging semester was cut short due to COVID-19 pandemic and the Alpha Rho class is going to complete their pledging process virtually as well as have an initiation virtually, I want to make sure that everyone gets properly integrated into the chapter upon returning back on campus in Fall 2021. I would like to work closely with President Emeritus, James Liu Tang and the future Special Event Coordinator as well as past Special Event Coordinators and New Member Education Team to plan for an in-person Initiation for both the Alpha Pi and Alpha Rho pledge class as there are many traditions that may be involved with an in-person Initiation.

Revamp Recruitment Process

For Spring 2021 recruitment, we introduced written applications for the deliberation process. I personally feel that this was a great change as it standardized the process, eliminated some bias in our recruitment process, and emphasized more focus on the service element. Since this was our first time trying out this new written portion, I think this process can further be improved this upcoming semester. To try to maintain the fairness of our recruitment deliberations process, I believe that we should maintain the format of our round one deliberations, but with the exception of mixing up the groups to ensure that every recruit has their application read by a fair representation of the chapter.

While conducting the Midsemester Review as a VP of Membership, many actives brought up that they felt uncomfortable about the “fun” questions that were being asked during Speed Dating. My vision for Alpha Phi Omega is a professional service organization so it’s important to be aware of the image that we portray to others outside of APO. Majority of the recruits that don’t end up getting into APO may come to the conclusion that they are being evaluated on those “fun” questions, since the recruits don’t know that only the first question that we ask during Speed Dating is scored. Additionally, while these were traditionally part of the Speed Dating process, times are changing and these questions may not be the most appropriate anymore considering the conversations we’ve been having in the world and the learning we are trying to do.

To tackle these issues, I would like to work closely with the future Co-Directors of Recruitment to implement a Google Form for all actives to submit a “fun” question anonymously for Speed Dating in advance and let the Co-Directors of Recruitment as well as the Co-VPs of Membership to approve the “fun” questions to ensure that it’s appropriate to use during Speed Dating.

Mental Health

I believe that mental health is one of the most important aspects of one's life especially during this time. We are living in a monumental time in history and I would like to help APO members to care more about their mental health. In order to accomplish this, I would like to work with the future Diversity and Inclusion Chair to start the GBM off by offering tips for maintaining good mental health. It can be as simple as teaching our members to eat healthier or cook healthier. There are many simple but important skills to have as young adults in college.

I'd also like to create a "safe space" where members of our chapter are free to talk about anything that is on their minds or going on in their lives and how we can offer support. I am very well aware that not everyone may be comfortable talking about their life or expressing their emotion in person, especially when talking about something that affects you personally. I would like to implement an anonymous forum for members to share their thoughts on the APO Website that would help initiate conversation within the organization. People would also be able to respond, either anonymously or with their name. Additionally, I'd like to expand upon the compilation of USC campus support services that are located on the APO website with the resources that I've become familiar with as part of USC's GIVE Foundation, a mental health organization on campus. This would help us all feel connected and supported.

Increase Professional Development and Alumni Network

I plan on working with the future New Member Education Team and Co-VPs of Membership to formulate a new Pledge ExComm position: **Pledge VP of Membership**

Unlike other committees, there is no Pledge that is appointed to Membership Committee and yet this semester, a good number of the pledges show up to the Membership Committee meetings as they're genuinely interested in learning more about what goes on within Membership.

Membership is such an integral part of the chapter so it is important to ensure that the Pledges are given the opportunity to experience the duties of Membership Committee. Similar to Pledge VP of Service planning a large scale service event or Pledge IC Chair planning a large scale IC event, I hope that the Pledge VP of Membership will work with everyone in the Membership Committee to plan for at least one large scale professional development workshop or alumni panel.

We also must increase the Alumni presence in this organization as our chapter's involvement with Alumni is extremely low. For instance, we had a lot of alumni who were willing to serve as mentors for actives and Pledges this semester and a lot of people didn't take advantage of that. I plan to work with the future Alumni Liaison and Co-Directors of Recruitment to include an alumni panel during the recruitment period for APO alumni to come and share about their service experiences and how APO has positively impacted their college experience. Not only does this show the recruits how APO has made a positive impact in these alumni's lives but also show how strong the alumni connections are in APO.

Executive Committee Internal Communication

I will do my best to mediate and oversee each ExComm members' duties and provide assistance when facing unforeseen circumstances. I plan on working closely with every E-board position and their respective A-board members to ensure that everyone is working well together. I want to be able to visualize the weekly goals and plans for every ExComm member.

Throughout my own experience in ExComm, there were many times when I wish I had more concrete/structured guidance in how to approach the role in my position. I will personally follow up with every ExComm member to play a closer role as president into the ideas of the VPs and assist them with the implementation of those ideas if they need. I also plan on attending a different Committee Meeting every week to see what each respective committee member is working on and whether or not they need my assistance.

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.

As a current VP of Membership, I have worked very closely with both James Liu Tang, our Alpha Rho President, and Justin Chang, our Alpha Rho New Member Educator, throughout the course of the semester. Having attended all of the pledge meetings, I have a clear understanding of what goes on in the pledging semester and will be able to work closely with the next New Member Educator to facilitate these events, whether virtual or in person. Working closely with James solidified my understanding of how ExComm functions. I worked alongside my co, Naomi Lin, this semester to revamp the entire Academic Mentor program to include biweekly meetings so that our new members actually interact with their mentors. Additionally, I collaborated with other members of our organization to host workshops in various different fields, like business, health, design, and many others. I believe that these experiences, and many others I've had this semester, will set me up for success as the next President of Alpha Kappa.

Below, I've listed some other involvements I've had outside of APO and the work I have done in those organizations.

a. GIVE Foundation - Co-Founder/VP of Finance

As one of the founding members, GIVE Foundation is a student-run mental health and wellness organization that creates multimedia content projects on our website to promote university student health and well-being. My main role as a VP of Finance is to build and maintain GIVE's website (www.giveusc.com), executing fundraising events, and applying for USG Funding.

b. USC American Marketing Association - Director of Philanthropy

My main duty as a Director of Philanthropy is to plan service, social, professional development workshop events for our members. I also organized the Social Impact Conference for 100+ members, which was dedicated to helping students learn more about ethical practices for social entrepreneurship.

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?

I will be taking a standard 16-unit course load in Fall 2021 which consists of classes with lighter coursework. While I was involved in various other organizations this semester, I will be focusing my full attention on APO if selected for this opportunity to be President for Fall 2021.

This semester, I am currently enrolled in 20 units, working two internships, pledging for Sigma Eta Pi, and serving on the executive boards for three student organizations. This has prepared me to balance a busy schedule while still maintaining my fullest commitment to the different responsibilities. Again, my schedule next semester will not include these commitments.

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.apouse@gmail.com.

