



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 27th at 11:59 PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to president.apouse@gmail.com and cc 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 27th at 11:59 PM** to president.apouse@gmail.com. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Sarah Zhou

Year: Junior

Major: Biology

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Epsilon (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?

To me, APO is big family reunion: I may not be close with everyone and I may not see everyone often, but I will at least know who each member is and know that we have at least one thing—the desire to be of service—in common. In large families and large organizations, it is difficult to become close with every member. My vision for APO is to help it continue and improve as a welcoming family reunion: people will naturally fall into groups of close friends (their nuclear families) within APO, but they will also welcome and look forward to spending time with their other brothers (their extended APO family). I believe it is the responsibility of the leadership in APO to help foster these relationships between members, be they actives, associates, brothers abroad, pledges, or even inactive members returning to activehood in the programs it puts on. By building APO as a family and a way to stay connected to people, I hope to not discourage spending time with close friends and encourage using APO to stay in touch with people members may not spend as much time with. For me, as I know is true for many others, being able to do service with my friends and people I know instead of as a lone volunteer is a unique opportunity I cherish, and I hope that APO continues to strengthen this by strengthening the connections between members.

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

Having had four good-standing active semesters in APO, it is time to give back. As I mentioned above, APO has been a large family to me and fellowship events have been key to shaping my experience of APO as such and have been some of my favorite events. As a pledge, I got to know my pledge brothers better, meet actives, and explore LA. As an active, these events have created the opportunity for me to spend time with brothers I otherwise do not see often. As VP Fellowship, I wish to continue creating these experiences for others.

As a junior, I have had almost three years to explore Los Angeles and build my list of places to go. I have also had plenty of semesters in APO to feel torn between spending more money and wanting to get food with friends. Next semester, I hope that with a balance of the two experiences and with the strong foundations of the VPs Fellowship before me I can create a balanced program: having a mix of shorter and longer, free and spending, and on and off campus events.

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

My goals for the position are to give members the opportunity to spend time with brothers they usually do not see around by creating affordable, accessible events (and have shorter events as well). I will continue events like farmer's market, League, sports on campus (volleyball, basketball), movie night, brothers supporting brothers, and the jogging adventures series as well as create new events listed under (4). I plan to make a variety of fellowship events by adding shorter and/or free weekly events to the strong program of

food events we already have. Finally, I will keep my slides short to maintain the trend of short meetings.

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

To the position (new events):

- On campus
 - Weekly/biweekly game night
 - Bring back TV show/kdrama series
 - Cinema school screening events (event free, on campus or LA Live)
- Explore LA on a budget: free and optional spending events:
 - Magic staircase “hike” in Silver Lake (event free, photo op too)
 - Los Liones hike (event free)
 - Expo line to Santa Monica (metroable)
 - Grand Park yoga; ¡Lunchtime! events (metroable, event free—perfect midday break)
 - CicLAvia (metroable, event free, this year’s is Culver City to Venice beach)

To the organization:

- Make certain weeks of fellowship committee meetings into events worth some fraction or whole fellowship point
- Work with pledge team to ensure that pledges are able to take lead for the events listed and there is not too much overlap with other events
- Make events more affordable (time and money-wise) and accessible (see events above)
- Work with Special Events on planning retreat events and Alumni Liaison on contacting and creating alumni events

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 had experience being in leadership as an Experiment Manager (EM) for Science Outreach (SCout) throughout the entirety of last school year and as Fundraising Chair—Grants this year. I work well with others and seek others’ input: as part of the first EM team for building a second-grade curriculum, outside input and advice from veteran third-grade EMs was extremely valuable. APO members’ input and seeking advice from previous VPs Fellowship as the semester approaches will be just as important, and I will actively reach out to the membership body, e-board, and past e-board. Being an EM required extensive planning that has prepared me well to plan and schedule events: I spent part of my summer before my year as EM began planning and budgeting twelve weeks’ worth of experiments with my team, and four hours each week during the school year refining lessons and buying materials. As part of e-board, I attended almost every social event (such as “SCoutings” and tailgates); I helped social chairs brainstorm and promote events and bring my session together in simple, accessible SCoutings. While in high school, I planned the winter dance and prom for the school. My going-on two years as a very involved e-board member in

SCout and in student government in high school has given me ample experience in working with others, seeking opinions, and planning ahead.

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?

Next semester, I will be involved in research, SCout e-board, outside volunteering, and work. Research is reserved for Fridays, and usually does not take the whole day. My SCout e-board responsibilities this year are much less time-consuming than last year's, only an hour or two (or even less) outside of the 3 hour meeting/session requirements. Outside volunteering will range from 2-4 hours a week. Work is four hours on weekends.

I will be able to attending APO e-board meetings and most of my classes are stacked so I will have larger chunks of time outside of class to hold committee meetings and plan events. I have previously been able to balance the same commitments (research, SCout sessions, outside volunteering, and work which has replaced a lab section) with a heavy e-board workload and believe that I can balance my APO duties properly this upcoming semester.