



Fall 2014 Nominated Officer Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2014 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than THURSDAY, April 24TH at 5:00PM**. Please send this document and all supplemental materials to webmaster.apousc@gmail.com . PDF is preferred.

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 27st at 11:59AM** to communications.apousc@gmail.com . You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: Charlie Jackson

Year: Junior

Major: Biology

Pledge Class (Year): Omega (Sp '12)

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 and what are your goals for the position? What new ideas can you bring?

President:

My biggest long-term goal for president would be to increase our name recognition on campus as well as furthering our relationships with the organizations that we currently work with. The easiest way to do this is though more PR and outreach to other orgs. Both of these have been done

more in the past semester than in any of the previous ones that I've seen. Our PR efforts for APieO made it the most successful one I've seen in terms of bringing both actives and non-APO people out. I'd like to see us more in the Daily Trojan and Neon Tommy. I'm not sure whether this would be a matter of simply reaching out to them, but it's something I'm interested in looking into.

I'd like to focus more on service this semester, particularly the philanthropy events. I like the idea of having a theme every semester, but also worry that it boxes the philanthropy chairs into a corner. Having a theme is definitely something I'd be willing to reconsider in the upcoming semester so that we can have productive events rather than just ones that fit with our theme and no one cares much about. There's so much room for growth and creativity within the philanthropy position and I'd like to give the co-chairs a lot of room to do what they want and what the chapter is interested in. Additionally, I'd like to see us working more with other service orgs on campus. I know that's much easier said than done, but any interactions with like-minded organizations helps get the APO name out there more.

As far as the pledging semester goes, I'd like to see stricter policies in many different arenas. I'm tired of seeing concessions made for pledges who are apathetic about their semester. I know that at times I was guilty of this as PM for the AGs, and this too is easier said than done, but I'd like to hold the pledges accountable for their requirements and stop working around them so much and making things easier and easier for every pledge class.

As far as ExComm as a whole, I'd like to see people who are as invested in being a productive member of ExComm as they are in doing their particular position well. Any group functions best with varying opinions and people who are willing to voice them, so I'd be looking for that in other Eboard members. However, part of being on Eboard is being a team player. I don't anticipate having to present a united front due to any major issues, but if something like the rush email of AG semester were to happen again, it's important that Eboard understands their position means that they can't go around gossiping or trash-talking members of our organization (though, really, this should be a general understood rule for good leaders). They would need to trust in one another and trust the majority to make the best decision for the chapter in extreme cases like that. I'd also like to see more transparency, especially in the enforcement of rules. No privacy needs to be broken, but people should know that we are taking things like the rush rules seriously. I think transparency in decision making would help the general body have more trust in their EBoard.

Membership:

I would like to bring the focus of the VP of Membership back to retaining members that are on the fringe of leaving for whatever reason. Obviously, an important component of the position is keeping the active body happy and advocating for their best interest on ExComm, but there is a lot of room for growth in those people that are kind of around but possibly on the verge of leaving. It shouldn't be a surprising anomaly that most of Omega class that's still in school are active members of APO. The VP of Membership should offer avenues for people with less time (or less interest in being a full fledged member of APO) to still have a place in APO. I think the mentor program that Christina started was a fantastic idea that failed a bit this semester because people didn't volunteer for the position and instead were just assigned pledges. Forcing people to be active through methods like that is not a productive way of encouraging membership. I would continue the mid semester reviews – making a particular effort to reach out to people who are around less – to gauge how the chapter feels about APO and their place in the org. Through notes I'd take through these mid-semesters, the Eboard and general chapter, would have a running commentary of what people see as flaws and good things in the chapter. I'd also eliminate family appreciation events since they have largely failed in the past semesters. It's a nice thought but not one that has caught on for fairly obvious reasons. The few times families are actually important in APO (namely GBM shouting matches and things like capture the flag) their only function is to give us a group to support and a group to root against. We don't need to appreciate each other because outside of the times where we are competing in competitive situations the families serve little to no purpose.

2. What are two positive qualities that you lack and how do you compensate for these shortcomings?

One positive quality that I lack (and that basically every teacher since third grade has reminded me of on my report cards) is an attention to detail. However, since I've been reminded this since elementary school, it's something that I've had time to work on and correct. Though it takes a conscious effort for me to figure out all the various details that need to be attended to, it's something that I've learned to do through list-making and writing things down when I think of them.

Another weakness I have is that I can be stubborn when I get my mind set on an idea. That's not to say that I'm close-minded. In fact, I'm usually the opposite. I'm the person who evaluates all the possible outcomes or opinions of a situation before forming my own definitive decision. But once I've made that decision I sometimes have tunnel vision until the goal is achieved.

3. 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.

The most obvious experience that I have is my time as AG Pledgemaster. The role of PM is unique in that you basically cover all the different jobs in APO a little bit. I played the role of President in overseeing the pledge board and making sure that all their events were on track and suitable for what they're supposed to be. I had to manage my pledge uncles and keep everything running properly. There was a lot of delegating, organizing and overseeing. I played the role of the enforcer as well, having to make tough, unpopular decisions and live with the consequences of them. In addition to all the things I did as PM, I also got valuable experience playing a role on ExComm, which is equally if not more important than actually being able to do your specific job. ExComm functions as a team where everyone's opinions and behaviors matter and knowing how to play a useful role on that team is important.

Additionally, I've had experience bartending, which might not seem relevant at first, but actually taught me a lot. Every night I spent most my time interacting with people and learning how to relate to them. Since it's a job, and you can't afford to make anyone angry, no matter how crazy, obnoxious, or stupid the customers were being, I had to work with them and keep them happy.

And, surprisingly enough, my zoo keeping experience is also relevant. Zoo keeping is the kind of job where everyday you have a million different tasks in twenty different places that all have to be attended to and remembered. Obviously, forgetting any of these different things could be catastrophic for any of the animals that I was dealing with. It was high stress, but also high reward. It was difficult at first (see above in the weaknesses section) but eventually I got into a rhythm and learned how to organize and execute all the different things I had to do everyday. I'd imagine that being president is somewhat like running a zoo. I would have a bunch of different people doing a bunch of different things to keep on track, which is something I have experience with.

4. 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 only major commitment next semester is academics. This past semester I cut back on many of the things I do to focus on passing Ochem with a somewhat decent grade, so I have the option of not picking those things back up next semester if I were to win either of these positions. It's something I'm entirely comfortable doing because I think it was the best decision that I made when I got elected pledgemaster. Not having many other commitments allowed me to focus the proper amount of time on my position and give it what it deserved.

5. Why are you the best candidate for this position?

For both the positions I think I'm the best candidate for a similar reasons. For president, though I clearly do not have as much EBoard experience as the other candidates (this was written when there were at least five other people running), I have more investment in the organization as a whole. In my five semesters in APO I have been one of the more active active members. Though that doesn't necessarily mean that I'm reaching 100s of service hours or 25 fellowship events, I'm the person that's around and willing to help out, even though it's not my job. I'm the person that people go to with questions or concerns and the one that will find the answers if I don't know them already. I'm someone that Eboard members have trusted with responsibility and gone to when they need help. I believe I'm someone that most people can get along with and trust. Additionally, as mentioned before, my time as pledge master allowed me to dabble in all the different realms of APO. So while I may not have officially been VP of Service or Rush Chair, I have some amount of experience in all the arenas.

Also, I think an important quality for a president in particular to have is to not be afraid of making people angry. Often the best course of action for the chapter means making at least one person angry, whether it be enforcing the rush rules or some other component of decision making or running EBoard. I'm not looking to run for president to make everyone in APO my friend, I'm doing it to attempt to help the chapter. It's important to have someone in the position that others can look to as an authority, but, more importantly, respect as an authority. I believe I can be that person.

Don't forget to attach your résumé and schedule.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Elected Board Questionnaire. Please be sure to send in your election slide(s) no later than Sunday, April 27th at 11:59AM. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact president.apouse@gmail.com.

Good luck! ☺