

**Fall 2019 Nominated Officer Questionnaire**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2019 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than** **SUNDAY APRIL 14THat 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

*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 14TH at 11:59 PM** to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com). You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name: Diandra DeCampos-Kundahl

Year: Junior

Major: Neuroscience

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Mu (Spring 2018)

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

[  ]  President

[  ]  Pledgemaster

[X]  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):

Are you running all or nothing (leave blank if not applicable)?:

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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

I am running for VP of Service because I feel called to commit to a cause greater than myself. New service opportunities compelled me to rush APO; along the way, through serving, I was given the chance to be a leader and make new friends. As an athlete, we were required to perform a certain number of service hours per semester, but it didn’t seem like nearly enough. Growing up in a service-driven household, I was yearning for more chances to go out into Los Angeles and increase my impact by helping groups beyond the few we were serving. After an injury ended my collegiate rowing career, I was able to do just this—with the help of APO.

Being VP of Service connects every member of the chapter by bringing people together, inspiring rushees/recruitees to pledge, and impacting the community at large. This position allows me to represent the whole chapter, rather than just my pledge class by providing events that gives our 150+ actives, associates, and pledges the resources to be active volunteers in the community. If I had to define service, it would be “the act of going beyond yourself, your own temporal needs and desires, and showing your humanity for someone or something else”. I have a passion for service that goes beyond our requirements—I feel it deeply within my soul and very being. It is a core part of who I am as a person, and by being VP of Service in the upcoming semester, I will be able to go beyond the service I provide to the community and serve my chapter in a new way. To me, LFS has an alternate meaning: “Live for Service.”

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

My vision for APO is to continue to have service as our cornerstone, the foundation of this organization and chapter. APO is the “single most represented co-educational intercollegiate service organization in the U.S.” (APO’s “About Us”), and we are located in the heart of Los Angeles, surrounded by at least two ICs, but primarily our events with them are more fellowship-based. My vision for APO is to champion a Semester of Service, going beyond Day or Week of Service and really establishing ourselves within the USC community through collaborations as well as strengthening IC connections through more dual service events.

One goal for the position is to make it more accessible by giving the members of a chapter a greater say in what events they want to see incorporated into or reduced with respect to our established schedule of weekly events. The VP of Service represents the chapter with respect to planning and coordinating events but cannot and should not act alone; therefore, my goal is to listen to the voice of individuals in order to better the chapter and create new relationships with local service groups and non-profits. Another goal was inspired by my experience as Alumni Liaison—bringing back past events, some from semesters and others from years ago. In speaking with various alumni, some of their favorite events haven’t continued over the years—such as Fur Baby Food Forward citrus harvesting, and Salsa Night at Lincoln Park Senior Center—that I will try to revive. This would allow me to achieve my ultimate goal—supplementing our existing opportunities with longer or larger weekend ones. This respects the commitment of those with busy weekday schedules to finish hours while offering events that highlight the positive experiences of our alumni.

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

Overall, I believe that VP of Service is one of the most stable positions in APO and doesn’t require any revolutionary overhaul. However, I want the position to be more approachable by allowing any member of the chapter to talk one-on-one with me to create a schedule to finish hours. While this isn’t a common problem, I don’t want anyone to engage in events half-heartedly just to remain in good standing for the following semester.

As such, a new idea for the position within the larger context of the organization is to create an open dialogue to express content or discontent with specific events, scheduling, etc. throughout the semester. This position leverages the voices of every member of the chapter and if you want your voice heard, I want to listen to create a positive change. This slightly shifts the VP of Service role from one of talking with the chapter rather than to them, allowing for us to have a dialogue instead of giving directions. After all, service is at the core of why we all joined APO and the last thing I want is for it to be seen as just another requirement rather than something to celebrate and thoroughly enjoy. If an event is poorly attended due to scheduling conflicts, I’ll poll the chapter to see what time works better and coordinate with the organization on changing the time or day. If something drastic occurs, such as the majority of the chapter wanting to discontinue an event or a collaborator not aligning with our values as an organization, I’ll facilitate that conversation during EBM before making the final decision.

Expanding on the approachability aspect, I want to create events based on the populations that any members of the chapter are passionate about serving. In this way, these service events will reflect active- or associate-led fellowship series and inspiring anyone in the chapter to be a leader (regardless of status as an active, associate, or pledge) and share what types of service they love with everyone. For example, for those passionate about the arts, I have two potential events—volunteering at Self Help Graphics and Art’s Community Art Workshops during el Dia de los Muertos (with the potential to be a service + diversity event) and volunteering at P.S. ARTS’s Family Art Nights to work with students and their families on a facilitated art project. Want to get your hands a little dirty (by gardening)? Say no more—I’ll reach out to Farm LA or we can go to the Solano Canyon Community Garden. From working with the elderly to the LGBT+ community to the environment to advocating for refugees to any of your heart’s deepest desires, I promise we can start a service series (or even a single event) that reflects what you love. To me, there are few things more personal that sharing the reason you want to and are inspired to serve.

While we are the foremost service organization on campus, we are not the only one. In terms of becoming more well-known and drawing in a larger, more diverse group of rushees/recruitees, the smartest thing to do would be do collaborate with other service clubs on campus or USC programming itself. Recognized fraternities and sororities are required to do philanthropy and our love of philanthropic endeavors largely align; at least during my time in APO, Jill did such through the Zetas sandwich making event and the Phi Delta Theta blood drive, and I plan to extend this to as many fraternities and sororities as possible. Particularly, I believe working with the diversity and community service sorority, Sigma Delta Sigma, would have great benefits. With respect to USC’s service clubs, we have historically built houses with Habitat for Humanity, baked with Challah for Hunger, gave blood for the Red Cross, and volunteered at the Hawaii Club’s luau. We can even go beyond to connecting with USC programming itself, such as volunteering as a group on Friends and Neighbors Day to help an organization outside of our usual ones and spread the word of APO. It is through these weekly or bi-weekly collaborations that we can have a successful Semester of Service.

I am in a very unique position as a former athlete because I know what kind of service they do and how we could expand the number of people they serve. I think by partnering with athletics, it will give athletes service opportunities aside from the few events they are offered to do and can provide service in areas they want to do. Additionally, it will be a great opportunity for their PR (and ours) and further our reach as an organization. I have connections with the Director of Community Outreach and can bring her to the table to gauge her interest in partnering with the premier service-based leadership organization on campus, which is something I believe only I can offer to the chapter.   
 Although not the primary form of service in the chapter, I do have a few opportunities for remote service if that’s something people would be interested in doing to reach hours as well (beyond Wise Readers to Leaders). As we live in a technological age, it allows for us to provide even more service to a larger community, but we still must retain both humanity and the interpersonal connection while serving.   
 If you know me, you know that I really care about diversity. When running for diversity chair (twice), I championed for creating dual events that fulfilled both diversity and service requirements. In terms of sexuality or gender identity, this could be done by volunteering at the Los Angeles LGBT Center or collaborating with QuASA at their fall Drag Show. With respect to ethnicity or culture, we could volunteer at a local Diwali festival. USC’s Levan Institute hosts the Prison Education Project, which allows students to act as TAs in minimum-security prisons, and through a partnership, we can gain insight into the lives of those who are incarcerated and serve an entirely new group of people.  
 While there are no requirements for brothers abroad, I want to have the ability to connect them with local service opportunities if they are interested. Therefore, I will do the research and coordinate with them to allow them to continue serving in an entirely new country and setting.

1. **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 worked in Serve Comm during my time as Pledge VP of Service and was able to organize a successful pledge service event. Without the help and guidance of Nikki, I knew that would have been much more difficult. This mentorship inspired me to want to continue on this tradition and expand the pledge service event beyond what is expected. While on Serve Comm, I amassed a list of organizations we could possibly reach out to for my service event and made the decision for DPS and Handwarmers based on the class majority. My relevant experience relates to my investment in what kinds of groups my pledge class wanted to serve or what events they wanted to do; it is more about what the people want and providing them with the opportunities to have events they will thoroughly enjoy.   
 Working in Membership Comm this semester has been enlightening in terms of receiving feedback about my ideas and making suggestions for events in other positions. It has inspired me to re-imagine VP of Service as a position that is more collaborative, taking feedback weekly from members of the chapter to enact change (if necessary) rather than once per semester via Midsemester Reviews. Additionally, I really enjoy inputting hours into MasterDoc because it gives me a sense of joy that people attended and appreciated the events that I created.  
 From birth, I was ingrained with the spirit of teamwork, collaboration, and the strengthening of an individual by the group by my family (known as “Team DK”). From the age of three, I’ve been a member of a sports team, and as I grew up, I was often a leader or captain. While this does not necessarily come from committee experience per say, I want to bring this core value of team spirit into APO and specifically, into the VP of Service position. It is not something that I can do alone, but rather, involves active participation and input from the chapter as a whole.

1. **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 still be working in the CIBORG Lab at CHLA, but that requires at most a once-per-week visit, and I do the rest of the work from home (about 4-6 hours per week). Because I’m getting a new PI, I’m not sure what day and time I will need to be there. I may be taking on an additional research position at another lab but am unsure of that yet; however, I am currently working with a professor on a project which is currently in the early stages. Despite my heavy course load this semester and the next, APO is a priority to me and therefore, I will make time for it and around it. This semester, I have been able to balance my ExComm responsibilities without affecting my other commitments this semester and plan to do the same next semester.