08

**Fall**

**Fall 2013 Nominated Officer Questionnaire**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Fall 2013 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than** **FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH at 8:00PM.** Please send this document and all supplemental materials to [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.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. Slides are due by **SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH at 11:59pm** 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: Charlie Jackson

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Pledge Class (Year): Omega (Spring 2012)

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

[ ] President

[ X ] Pledgemaster

[ ] VP of Service

[ ] VP of Membership

[ ] VP of Fellowship

[ ] VP of Finance

[ ] VP of Communications

[ ] Fundraising Chair

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What is your vision for APO?

My vision for APO is that we become more of a presence on campus. I know we’ve had some breakthroughs in this past year with the radio interview and we keep getting nominated for the USC service club award at the Tommy Awards, but I think there’s certainly room for improvement there.

Also, I’d like to see APO continue to form strong partnerships with the organizations we work with (like Kid City and Jordan Downs) and make new ones (I see a lot of potential with the Rabbit Sanctuary and the BCR Dances). I believe it’s fun to do service with friends, but when you’re connecting with the people or animals that you work with on a weekly basis, that makes the entire experience exponentially better. Building these relationships will hopefully mean that more and more actives won’t simply be fulfilling their hours, but well exceeding them and people will return semester after semester to continue volunteering.

Finally, I’d like to see people coming back semester after semester. Our requirements really aren’t that difficult to meet, especially if someone goes associate, so I don’t think there’s any reason people should go inactive, particularly within a few semesters of pledging. I believe that the easiest way to change this is to have a pledging experience that encourages people to become as involved as possible and also facilitates bonding not only within the pledge class but between actives and pledges.

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

I, surprisingly enough, loved my pledging semester. It’s really exciting first joining an organization and getting to know all the new people and all the new activities. I didn’t go into my pledging semester thinking that the people I met in APO would become some of my closest friends or that the activities would take up most of my free time, but that’s how it turned out. I can only imagine how much better my pledging semester would have been if we had a pledge master who was more involved and had been more invested in the pledges. So I want to be the person who makes someone else’s pledging experience amazing and show them the APO that I’ve come to love.

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

My goal for pledge master is be a leader and a guide for the pledges to get through their pledging semester. I’m not going into this expecting to be their best friend or confidant, but that’s not to say that we won’t have fun, hang out, and laugh along the way. I understand though that some distance would be needed just so that I’m able to enforce all of the policies and rules which, unfortunately, need to be enforced.

I also want to continue the emphasis on service that I think Kristyn has set, because I do believe we are a service based group that acts like a fraternity, not a fraternity that happens to do a lot of service. I would definitely keep one pledge mission service based and have the other be more fun/fellowship orientated.

When Enzo ran for pledge master he had the idea of creating inter-class hang outs, and I’d really like to work with the fellowship chair to make that happen. I don’t think they need to be large scale things, but maybe just smaller groups of people getting dinner. I think this would help facilitate pledge/active bonds and relationships. This was something that I really didn’t feel like I got during my semester. As a pledge class I felt that we were very isolated from the rest of the chapter and I think that makes it harder to come back the next semester unless you’re someone who is highly involved.

I also want to use my pledge aunt(s) and/or pledge uncle(s) as members of my team, instead of people to do my bidding. I will be the first person to admit that my ideas might not be the best or most feasible and my first instinct on how to solve a problem is not necessarily the best way, so I want to hear their thoughts and opinions. I will expect my plaunties and pluncles to be very involved during the pledging semester and confident enough to speak their minds and tell me when I’m wrong, because I need and want their other opinions and views. Trying to figure out what’s best for thirty-some people is no easy feat and I don’t expect to do it alone.

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

My main idea for pledging, the ideal picture I have in my head, is that it’s going to be an excellent combination of fun and serious. I think pledges (and people in general) respond best to someone they respect and want to please. You can’t respect someone who never takes anything seriously and you won’t want to please someone who always takes everything seriously. In my pledging semester we never really formed a bond with our pledge master and consequently had very little motivation to succeed in certain ways. I think we applied more pressure to one another because we lacked that guiding force to inspire us to do well. I aim to be someone who they feel comfortable laughing and joking with and hanging out with, but also someone they will listen and appreciate the opinion of.

As far as pledge activities, I like the idea of an active’s scavenger hunt. I’d get facts about different actives and divide the pledges into teams or pairs to figure out which active goes with which fact (something similar to the omega class car ride retreat activity). If I do it near the beginning of the semester, it would be a really good way to have pledges and actives talking, even if it’s just over facebook or texting.

I don’t know how possible it is logistically, because it would also rely a lot on where the pledge night before retreat is held, but I think it’d be really fun to do an amazing race type thing where the pledges work together in small groups to complete a series of tasks that eventually lead them to their where the pledge night is or to their ride to pledge night. I didn’t have a pledge night myself, so I don’t know exactly what’s meant to happen during them, but if it’s anything like the pledge reflection night, I think this amazing race would be a more fun way to bond with each other and more valuable then just sitting around in circles chatting.

I did some googling just to see what other fraternities/sororities are doing during their pledging semester and, after wading through a lot of different hazing ideas, I actually found something that I liked. A lot of Greek organizations, mostly because their members have to maintain a certain GPA, have rewards for logging a certain number of library or study hours. A lot of people in APO already study together, so why not make some incentives (for us maybe an enrichment or fellowship point) for pledges to study together, both for quizzes and just for school in general. Again, I don’t know how many pledges would want to participate in this, it will depend a lot on the class, but I think it’s definitely something to consider. It would serve a double function as a bonding activity and helping each other cope with balancing academics and pledging.

As far as the entire organization, I, like probably every other person running, would like to see the member retention rate increase. I have my own ideas about how to go about that, many of which include the pledging semester. I’d also like to see some more transparency with e-board. I know that has improved a lot in this past semester, but after talking with a lot of e-board members I think the general consensus is that people don’t fully understand what is happening behind the scenes. This becomes very obvious in people’s comments in the e-board evaluations, so I’ve been told.

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.

In high school, all I did was run groups and organizations, especially in my junior and senior year, so I have plenty of experience working with other people, organizing things, and leading groups of people. I was captain of my tennis team for two seasons and squash team captain for one, page editor of the school paper and then lead editor of the entire thing, a peer group leader (an older student picked by teachers to help incoming freshman transition into high school), stage manager for multiple shows, and the list goes on. So I know how to work with people, how to work on boards, how to navigate the politics that inevitably comes with working on governing boards. All those things have also given me experience motivating people and helping to make sure that everyone is doing what they need to be doing when they need to be doing it. I know how to mediate issues that people are having and how to reach a common ground. I’ve had experience organizing events (mostly fundraisers, cast parties, and post season banquets) for large groups of people.

I also think my experiences working at a sports bar are somewhat relevant to being pledge master. Every night I would meet new and different people, some of whom I genuinely liked and some who were the biggest jerks I’ve ever met. Those experiences taught me that there is something relatable and essentially nice in anyone which helps me get along with most people. So I am unconcerned about having to deal with pledges who might have personalities that clash with mine, because I know how to talk to and relate to people.

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?

As of now I have no commitments other than school. Due to some scheduling issues, it seems that I have a fairly light schedule, which would be very convenient if I were to win.

***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 28th at 11:59PM. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact [president.apousc@gmail.com](mailto:president.apousc@gmail.com).

Good luck! ☺