

**Spring 2018 Nominated Officer Questionnaire**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please attach your **current résumé** and **Spring 2018 schedule** (class, work, other extracurricular activities).

This questionnaire is due **no later than** **SUNDAY November 19th at 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. Slides are due by **SUNDAY November 19thth 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: Derek Lin

Year: Junior

Major: Communication; Minors: Consumer Behavior, Computer Programming, Web Technology and Applications

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Iota (Fall 2016)

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

[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?**

APO is something that is constantly evolving and changing. A large part of this is due to the incoming pledge classes, that set the precedence for the future of our fraternity. For me, APO was something that I continued to learn about every semester—I’m still learning about it today. I neither like it or dislike it more than before. I simply view it differently. With that being said, APO is an organization that is not static, it has a fluidity and movement to it. I want APO to be an organization that embraces this, that is willing to be open minded and willing to change.

I also want to re-emphasize a family mentality– people say everyone has to get along, but for the most part, you rarely hear about actual families getting along with each other 24/7. But I think acknowledging that point is important, and realizing that, at the end of the day, even if you have disagreements with your brothers in APO, you are still a family at the end the day. You can disagree. You can fight. But respect and love one another.

At the end of the day, I want APO to be an organization that people don’t have to stress about. I want it to be something that people can constantly enjoy and appreciate. I definitely believe that there are a number of things that can be changed about our beloved organization. I, by no means, believe it is a bad organization to any extent, but even the best can be made better. It is not an organization that changes overnight either, and I believe that it is important for us to come to terms with that as a Chapter. Be willing and open to change, but be patient.

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

I’m sure a lot of members are looking at the fact that I’m running for President and thinking, “he’s crazy”. I’m not going to lie—being Pledgemaster this past semester has burnt me out a little bit. However, being burnt out is part of it, and it is (for me) essential to acknowledge that this stress and tiredness exists. I am always tired, and I always will be—but this is what fuels me. This, and my passion for APO, for making APO a better organization, a place that everyone can love as much as I do, is what keeps me pushing and moving forward.

The reason why I want to run for President is because I want to continue to make a difference in our Chapter. I hope I have this past semester. I don’t believe an individual can produce change by themselves, but I do believe that they can push things in a certain direction. I want to be there for the people of APO, and to make our member’s lives better and easier.

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

President is in interesting position—it is a position where you are directly affiliated with everything the chapter tries to accomplish, but who’s specific, direct goals are less achievable through the individual, but through a group effort. However, being in a position that works very closely with the rest of ExComm, there are many goals that I wish to accomplish and maintain throughout the semester.

Firstly, regarding a physical goal, I would like to make APO an actual recognized organization on USC campus that has the ability to book rooms. I feel like this has been a consistent issue throughout the past few semesters, and it is something that I would like to target and remove. It just shouldn’t be a problem.

I also want to be able to balance the ideals of being relaxed and strict with my ExComm.

There is a responsibility for President to keep every single ExComm member accountable—to make sure that they are accomplishing their work to the fullest of their ability for the betterment of the chapter. However, it is not the President’s role to do another position’s job. It never should be. Rather, I want to be a President that other ExComm members can not only go to, but a President that will initiate this relationship, and work with my ExComm regardless of whether they come to me first. I want to be there for them, and I want them to have the ability to guide their own position and make their own decisions. The way an ExComm position is perceived and led should be through the discretion of the individual who has it. As President, I want to help guide my ExComm as a whole and individually, without defining anything.

President is also the position that sets the tone for ExComm, and I want to be able to set this open-minded and balanced tone at the beginning, and keep it throughout the entirety of the semester. I want ExComm (and the Chapter as a whole) to be fun, but serious when need be; to be open-minded and willing to work with one another.

Being a resource and voice for the Chapter is also important to me. I want to be a President that our Chapter can be proud of. Being a voice for ExComm is one thing, but being the voice for the Chapter is another. I want to be that middle ground, the communicator that helps keep the various sects of our Chapter connected—whether it be the Active body, ExComm, or the Pledges. I think it is important to have someone that can keep all of these people grounded and connected.

A major goal I have is improving active retention. This is a problem that everyone tries to address, and I think it is one that is definitely an issue, but not something that poisons the Chapter. Active retention is a result of a variety of different things. In my opinion, the most important way that we can improve this is through the Pledges, by targeting the Pledge Class and making sure to guide them in such a way that they would want to be Active. I always told my Pledges to be “better than the Active body”, and I am positive that they will have the capability to do so, to create change if they want it. However, I am no longer Pledgemaster, but I can still play a role in this. I also hope to improve active retention by closely working with the Active body—understanding and listening to everything they have to say. The Active voice is important. The Pledges may be the future of the Chapter, but the Actives are *literally are our Chapter*. Our Chapter has a huge focus on the Pledging process, and it gets to the point where Actives who are not directly involved with the pledges (non-Bigs and non-ExComm) feel like they are no longer part of or relevant to the Chapter. I want to move forward from this. Yes, I do believe it is important to place some sort of focus on our Pledging Process, but it *should not* be the only thing that defines our Chapter. I want to try to make Actives, just regular Actives important. After all, we have all worked hard to earn our right to be in the Chapter, so we should be able to utilize and appreciate it to its fullest extent.

Finally, I want to go beyond being transparent. I don’t think that’s enough. I believe that it is essential to be truly genuine with the active body. Knowing what’s going on is one thing—understanding why is another.

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

A quote from my Pledgemaster app: “Firstly, I want to put this out there. In regards to the organization as a whole, specifically e-board, I want to rewrite the application for these positions (this application). There seems to be a lot of overlap for a number of these questions, and it is something that I believe should be re-written by the next ex-comm as a whole.” Clearly, I didn’t do this, but as President, this would be work that is more directly related to me—therefore, it is something that I actually plan on changing. Also, another small note, clarifying if Pledgemaster is spelled “Pledgemaster” or “Pledge Master”. Seriously, it shows up differently in like six of our documents. It was really annoyhing.

On a more serious note, I want to start working closely with our Advisors and utilizing their resources and experiences. APO will have two potentially active advisors next semester, and this is the first time this has happened in a long time. I want to be able to smoothly transition into actually working with them, and actually being able to shift our Chapter’s culture to match this. I don’t want our Chapter to be dependent on our Advisors, but I think it is important to be aware of what we have available to us, and to act and utilize these things accordingly.

I also want to use the resources that USC has to offer. Whether this be the resources that our university has available for its organizations, the funding that is available, or other organizations that we could potentially work with, I want to expand the depth of our Chapter. One of the special things about APO is the fact that we are our own little family, and that when you’re doing APO-related things, you don’t have to worry about the “outside USC environment”. Because of this, I don’t want to alienate the special community that USC fosters, but I want to begin transitioning APO into an organization that is more open-minded about outside resour.ces

Speaking with past ExComms is also something that I think will be essential for the President position—learning from past mistakes and successes. This is more than just speaking to the Presidents of the past, but talking to *all* positions in the past. The President is only one perspective on things, and I think that (because I will be working directly with the majority of, if not all of the other ExComm positions), I want to be knowledgeable about the leadership styles that did and didn’t work for the ExComms of the past. Learning from all of the past leadership of APO to create a comprehensive leadership style.

Also, maybe doing something exciting and different with the President slide. What does this mean? Who knows. We’ll see what happens.

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.**

Throughout my past two active semesters in APO, I have been very involved and am incredibly familiar with how our Chapter functions. In these past two semesters, I have held leadership positions within our chapter, being SAA Alpha Kappa semester, and being Pledgemaster Alpha Lambda semester. Although I am a relatively young member in APO, I believe that I have sufficient experience for President.

Outside of APO, I have also been in a number of different leadership experiences. This includes having been part of Building Government for two years, Undergraduate Student Government for two years, and the Treasurer for the Slam Scene for two years. Because of this, I have a lot of familiarity with working with different executive committees, and can easily adapt myself to the variety of individuals that will be in my ExComm.

Lastly, I have also been an RA for the past two years, so I am directly working with other student leaders on campus, as we as several residents. This past semester, I have closely worked with 47 residents, as well as 28 pledges. Both of these positions have taught be how to be adaptable in different situations and circumstances, and how to balance being strict and lenient. I have the capability and experience of communicating with people of wildly different characters.

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?**

This semester, as Pledgemaster, I quit 7 other of my organizations to dedicate my time to APO. This should be representative of the kind of commitment I have to our organization. At the end of the day, I am used to balancing APO with the rest of my life, as it is something that I have committed a large part of my life to.

I’m also going to be an RA, but this is something that I have balanced with my life for the last 3 semesters at USC. I have literally been an RA for longer than I haven’t been at this university.

Also, even though I’m taking 17 units, I will only have class on Tuesday and Thursday, so I will have plenty of time to participate in APO activities and pledge interviews.

Every semester, I dedicate more and more of my time to APO, and being one of my most open semesters, I don’t believe that my other time commitments will be an issue in anyway. Balancing everything is what I do best.