

**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: Grace Camia

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Iota, Fall 2016

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

[  ]  President

[  ]  Pledgemaster

[  ]  VP of Service

[  ]  VP of Membership\*

[  ]  VP of Fellowship

[ X ]  VP of Finance\*

[  ]  VP of Communications

[  ]  IC Chair

\*Are you running with another candidate? (please bold your answer) **YES** NO

What is the name of the person you intend to run with? ­­­­\_\_<3\_Elizabeth Shi\_<3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you running “all or nothing,” or are you willing to be split up if that is what the vote decides? ­

All or nothing.

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. **What is your vision for APO?**

Progress in a broad sense is most often hindered by monetary short comings. APO has the potential to continue to expand and develop, engaging even more with the community than previously done. My vision for APO is one that utilizes all the funding and privileges, made accessible to us due to our unique position as students at a private institution, to execute additional philanthropy and service events and establish a stronger presence as a service organization on this campus.

Furthermore, there is always conversation of working more consistently with various organizations on campus, a goal that has been pursued in the Alpha Lambda semester most clearly by Philanthropy and the President. Upon the addition of a Diversity Chair, should the amendment pass, outreach and joint programming would become increasingly plausible. It must be noted that joint programming also means joint funding, therefore allowing APO to do more without necessarily having to pay more.

Thirdly, I believe APO has room to grow in regard to inclusiveness in a multitude of ways. Overall, I would love to see APO continue to develop into an organization that not only serves a diverse population, but also exists as one as well. Relating directly to finance, I want greater attention to be paid to the members of this chapter who are committed to their continued involvement but may not have the financial means to continuously pay for dues and event attendance. It should be made clear to all those who may be struggling that monetary needs should never be overlooked. Creating customized payment plans and working to have enough free events to fulfill requirements for those who need it will be a major priority. Ensuring that money is never a reason to discourage active status is our responsibility.

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

I believe there is a lot of unexplored potential within the finance and fundraising sector of APO. In working to develop this more fully, all other positions and overall membership in APO can be enriched. USC has an inordinate amount of money. Let’s use all that we can. Let us not be discouraged into having fewer events or limiting the reach APO is capable of because we cannot self-fund all the amazing projects we wish to create. Instead, let us think smart and apply tirelessly for grants and resources to allow the members of this chapter to continue to innovate and improve upon our organization.

In addition, during my time as co-VP of Membership, it became apparent that there are many reasons individuals do not complete requirements. Although we cannot solve all the unique circumstances that come about, we can at the very least work to address those that originate from monetary concerns. Finance is a position that should not be thought of as a collection agency. Although dues collection is a policy that we will take very seriously, communication between finance and the chapter as a whole is **crucial**.

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

Cut unnecessary expenses and demand research prior to VP budget requests. In years past, it is often the case that the previous semester’s budget is copied rather than fully evaluated. New members of E-board bring with them new ideas and goals. Therefore, the budget should be reallocated as deemed necessary. Furthermore, requiring a conversation with each VP prior to submission of budget for approval to ensure that all minutiae, such as tax or delivery fees, is fully considered within the finalized budget is a must.

Create an active/associate fundraising goal, similar to what is anticipated from the pledge class. This would increase incentive to raise money, provide more opportunities to complete the fundraising requirement, and decrease financial strain on the chapter. Furthermore, if successfully implemented for consecutive semesters, the additional money could then be used for a variety of new projects.

Biweekly or triweekly budget reports to debrief the chapter on where each VP stands on their budget, where the active body stands on their fundraising goal, and where the pledge class stands on their fundraising goal.

Make the most of USC funding opportunities. Seeing as most grants have a yearly cap, the goal would be to use exactly half of what we can receive each academic year. Philanthropic endeavors especially could benefit greatly from increased budgeting and generate more interpersonal relationships between our organization and others in the surrounding area.

Include more fundraising opportunities and have shifts so that members can receive fundraising points without having to necessarily spend their money.

Work with the new advisor that I brought in, who runs multiple community and university funded organizations, to explore additional grant and funding opportunities.

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

We wish to formalize the procedure by which budgets are decided. Ideally, conversations would be held during the break using the advice of VPs from previous semesters to ensure that as many possible budgeting concerns be addressed prior to finalization and chapter approval of the budget. This would hopefully limit expense fluctuations and reduce fear of overspending.

Furthermore, we wish to explicitly create an active/associate fundraising goal. Although open to further discussion, the overall idea would be to have active and associate members partake in fundraisers, such as Boba or Krispy Kreme sales, on a more regular basis in order to increase incoming funds. This also offers a beneficial alternative of earning a fundraising point without having to incur a direct monetary expense, by instead merely dedicating a portion of your time to partaking in sales efforts. We also wish to tackle the scheduling of partnered fundraisers earlier and more consistently throughout the semester to provide a greater number of instances to receive the necessary points.

For the reimbursement policy, we wish to make it abundantly clear to members of executive committee that they will not need to front the money if unable to do so. Instead we wish to formalize the procedure so that either half to all the expenses will be given immediately and the excess will be returned with proper documentation of the transaction. Failure to do so will result in asking the VP to pay in full to establish accountability.

Another issue that we wish to touch upon is the failure of many members to pay dues. We wish to create a more transparent system of punitive measures for those who have not spoken to us about alternative payment plans. Therefore, the intention would be to set dues as early as possible, something that would be contingent upon successful completion of membership survey. In doing so, we would require all individuals intending to attend retreat to have shown significant progress towards completing dues payments. Furthermore, freezing accounts would be enacted earlier in the semester to change the overall flippant attitude toward payments for those who have not communicated directly with us about any necessary adjustments.

Overall, we would like to foster an environment in which there is a clear commitment to the completion of requirements. Lastly, we wish to be an approachable presence that aims to work with all members and all VPs to evaluate and pursue the financial needs and desires of the chapter.

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.**

Although I have no prior experience within an organization handling finances, it should be stressed that serving as co-VP of Membership the previous semester has proven to be an invaluable experience. Much of what the co-VPs of finance are tasked with involve a strong and clear knowledge of the inner workings of this chapter, something that Membership offers in full. We have worked with a plethora of other positions on executive committee, something that we will continue to do if elected as co-VPs of finance, and understand how vital finances are to the success of each and every position. In addition, handling the creation and upkeep of Masterdoc shows a proficiency in excel and google sheets that can be used continuously throughout the semester to accurately track and present all relevant financial information.

Furthermore, it should go without saying that financial competence is not a skill that can be learned solely through academics or organization leadership positions. As someone who has been economically self-sufficient since 16, I have a firm grasp on what it means to think pragmatically, budget, and remain aware of the vast differences in economic statuses of those involved in our chapter.

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?**

I have no other time commitments aside from school, work, and APO. I had the same list of commitments Fall semester and managed to successfully complete my Membership responsibilities, a position arguably more time consuming than Finance.