

**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: Steven Miao

Year: Junior

Major: Sociology

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Kappa

**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

[  ]  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? ­­­­n/a

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

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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

My vision for APO is to remain a friendly and open environment for anyone seeking to do service, make friends, or find themselves in college. Despite the fact that many of us have various backgrounds and personalities, our fraternity still has a way of finding ways for us to bond as one massive family, something that I hope will endure and persist throughout the future. However, like all families, APO has its fair share of faults. Just as we all have different personalities, we all have different expectations of what APO means for us. As such, it is impossible to appease everyone; some people came for service, some came for the friendships and bonds, and some came in search of drama. Yet, despite contrasting traits, I have seen APO constantly improve in unique ways; everyone has their unique take on improvement and honestly, for me, that is what APO means and represents. Throughout my time, I have continuously witnessed individuals bringing their own unique takes and interpretations to their roles, whether it be as a big, as an excomm member, or just what it means to be an active member. It’s a space for people to develop themselves in the fields of service, friendship, and service and a safe place that will embrace and promote all of their ideas and aspirations and I hope it continues to grow even more from here on out.

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

Personally, for me, APO has helped create many of the friendships and experiences that have defined my college experiences. I remember not knowing what to expect when I first rushed APO in Spring. I was already a sophomore but I felt myself not belonging in any concrete groups. College was a vastly underwhelming experience; I loved the freedom but not much else. However, after pledging, I quickly realized that what I wanted was to interact and bond with new people; to improve, to learn, and to grow alongside them.

After seeing what my own Pledge team did for my pledge class, I always knew that one day, I wanted to be in their positions, becoming the mediator for a group of individuals that didn’t have much in common to become a close-knit family within a larger community. Through all the difficulties of pledging, of schoolwork, or just my personal life, my pledge team was always there for me, whether it was to talk or just hang out. I want to be that same person guiding one of the future pledge classes to activehood while teaching them to remain as compassionate and caring for one another as possible.

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

To me, Pledgemaster is a role that serves as a catalyst to the APO bonding experience; he/she is responsible for organizing the flow of the pledging process, with integrating the pledge class into activehood and helping to mediate their development. For my goals, I hope to alleviate the stress that comes with pledging and to help foster deeper bonds within the pledge class and the active body. With the assistance of pledge team and the active body, I want to help shape the APO experience for future members to be one that is more fellowship heavy while maintaining the commitment to service and development of leadership. Personally for me, I became very bummed out that aside from Retreat, Pledge Night, and DTA, there were no other scenarios where the pledge team and pledges ever hanged out as a whole and could bond more with each other. As fun as pledging can be, between DTA and Initiation, there is nothing that differentiates a pledge from an active other than the stress of finishing requirements and gaining enrichment points.

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

Though we assign a pledge excomm, I do believe that unlike the active excomm, it is a large burden that many is burdensome on one pledge. Instead of assigning the burden to only one pledge, it would be a pledge committee that pledges will choose to focus on. These committees will be separate from the active committees but will be expected to attend their respective active committees aside from their own pledge committees. The goal with this would be to allow input from fellow pledges as a whole rather than choosing the “best” option in the second week of pledging and hoping all goes well.

Aside from that, I hope to incorporate blind dates into the pledge class as it doesn’t always happen in the semester. Pledges can choose blindly for certain events and then fellow pledges and hope for the best. It might not always work out to be an event they want, but they can bond over their distaste for the event.

One major thing I wish to add is Strike forgiveness. Though this may sound like a terrible idea, I think it is something that should exist. Rather than having to live with 2 ½ strikes due to stupid mistakes made in the beginning of the semester shouldn’t be the reason pledges are stressed and suffer. Things that exemplify LFS such as doing a set number of extra service hours in a week/pledging semester or earning Brother Bear of the Week for doing something to help others out of kindness should be put into consideration for the removal of ¼ of strike per set or equivalent act. This will offer pledges in stress a solution to redeem themselves.

Another system is enrichment points. Though they sound good in principal, the imbalance between how much is earned is overwhelmingly. It doesn’t really do much to better or worsen the pledging experience. The “fail as a team” mentality is really the only thing it promotes. No matter how negative a pledge can be in enrichment points, fellow pledge bros can bring that negative to a positive in a heartbeat with extra fundraising or total service hours completed. Alongside strikes, it doesn’t have much value other than bringing down fellow pledge brothers when an individual fails. A way to change this would be to remove it or make it more individually dependent rather than a last-ditch effort to do more to compensate for fellow pledge brothers. It also fails at hiding who has strikes and who has failed; showing enrichment points during quizzes and binder checks quickly points out who has the most strikes based on enrichment points.

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.**

Though I don’t have specific experience as a Pledgemaster, I have done similar activities in the Marching Band. I have become accustomed to working with large groups of people and bonding with them. As an older member, I have worked my way through multiple generations of bandsmen and helped them feel more included in their groups such as going to dinner or other events and interacting with each new member one on one.

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?**

Due to the Fall semester ending, my large time commitment to the Marching Band has ended. Should I gain the position of pledgemaster, I will forgo my commitment to basketball band in favor of prioritizing my position if need be. However, due to schedule blessings, I have three days of the school week free, enabling me to accommodate any time restrictions that pledges or actives may have.