

**Fall 2018 Nominated Officer Questionnaire**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

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

This questionnaire is due **no later than** **SUNDAY April 15th 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 April 15th 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:**

[  ]  President

[  ]  Pledgemaster

[  ]  VP of Service

[X]  VP of Membership

[  ]  VP of Fellowship

[  ]  VP of Finance

[  ]  VP of Communications

[  ]  IC Chair

Name of person you are running with (leave blank if no running partners):

Cameron Chu

**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. 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 must 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 believe that there are several 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?**

At this point, APO is an organization whose foundation and members I am very familiar with. As Pledgemaster, I was the voice of the Pledges; as President, I was the voice of the Chapter, and as Co-VP of Membership, I wish to be the voice of the Actives. I may be slightly burnt out, but that is a part of me. 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.

As Co-VP of Membership, I want to continue making a difference in our Chapter. I stay involved because the people matter to me, and I hope to represent those people to the fullest of my ability.

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

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 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.

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 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.

Every VP of Membership comments on how they’re going to increase Active retention, but it isn’t straight-forward. I don’t believe anyone in our Chapter will magically be able to provide a single idea that will increase Active retention. Instead, it is a combination of a lot of little things. (I also think it’s important to note the fact that our Chapter has one of the highest membership retentions in the nation).

I’ll be detailing a few of these things in the next question, but here is an example:

Maintaining a balance in GBM between efficiency and “having fun” is important. Having positive and enjoyable weekly interactions with the other members of APO can have a positive impact on the overall experience within the organization. Having GBM games and starting them earlier in the semester is something that we want to try to have next semester. Typically, the end of the semester is packed with long GBMs, so having early GBM games to keep Actives engaged in the first few weeks is important.

Here are some other goals:

1. Keeping up with Fam Heads | I want to make sure that the fam heads are getting everything done in advance. This includes tasks like DTA planning and fam gear. Furthermore, I want to have a steadier influx of fam events spread out through the semester (at least 1 a month?).
2. Creating a Calendar over the Summer | Membership consists of a LOT of little tasks, which is why it is so busy. There are a lot of things that could be missed if not carefully considered. Because of this, I want to create a calendar of all the membership tasks we have throughout the semester, so we never fall behind on our work.
3. Finalizing Bylaw Revisions | Throughout the past few semesters, we have been trying to edit our Chapter bylaws to be more consistent with what we really do. I want to finalize these revisions, so we don’t need to worry about them in the future semesters (aside from Town Hall changes).
4. Keeping our Chapter alive nationally | There are a lot of inconsistencies that our Chapter has with Nationals. Some of them matter, some of them don’t. Due to information we got from this past Sectionals, there are a lot of areas where we need to change, and I hope to transition our Chapter into these.
5. **What new ideas can you bring to the position and organization as a whole? Please provide examples.**

A quote from my Pledgemaster and President 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 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.

On a more serious note, I want to start working closely with our Advisors and utilizing their resources and experiences. We were supposed to add our second advisor this past semester. However, this is something that I couldn’t get done in my semester as President, and I hope to accomplish this next semester. I want to be able to smoothly transition into working with them and 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.

Furthermore, Cameron is talking about this in his application, but we want to create some sort of program that is semester long like Assassins. Assassins does a good job creating bonds between Actives, so we want to create an activity to help with Active retention. We were thinking about a “Secret Admirer” that you would sign-up at the beginning of the semester. This would be worth 2 membership points, and throughout the semester we would create different checks. For example, “bring a small gift with your secret admirer’s name to next GBM.” They would then pick up their gift from a box.

I also want to work on increasing family pride. Families are something that have slowly been losing their importance within our Chapter, and I want to try to find ways to keep people more hyped. For example, someone brought up the idea of creating “family flags” this past semester. I think this would be an easy way to boost our family morale, and I believe this would be a worthwhile investment with our current surplus of funds.

Because Diversity is a new ExComm position, I want to work with them closely during our recruitment process. Diversity is an issue that is always brought up in our Chapter, and it is something that is not easily addressed. Hopefully we’ll be able to create some sort of foundation for what the position can do to extend our recruitment process to a more diverse group.

The idea of Active Retreat or ExComm Retreat is constantly thrown around, but nothing really comes of it. I honestly don’t have many ideas or details surrounding this, so I’m simply going to do what we have in the past: throw the idea in the air and see what happens (and hopefully something actually happens).

In past semesters, there used to be ExComm Dinner Series. I think this would be a nice series to have. ExComm represents the Chapter, and I believe that it is important for the members of ExComm to understand the types of members there are, and for Actives to get to know the individuals who are leading them.

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.**

At this point, I have a lot of experience in APO ExComm, being SAA in Alpha Kappa, Semester, Pledgemaster in Alpha Lambda Semester, and President in Alpha Mu Semester. I’m familiar working with different ExComms and I understand how the Chapter functions.

Outside of APO, I have also been in several 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 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 year, I have closely worked with 72 residents, as well as 28 pledges. Both 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?**

Firstly, I won’t be on Big 4 for the first time in a year, so not having Big 4 Pledge interviews will honestly open my schedule a lot. Furthermore, after two years, I will no longer be an RA in my senior year, which is a major drop in my time commitments.

I am taking 18 units next semester, but I’ve had this many classes every year and it’s something that my schedule is accustomed to now. I also plan on rejoining several of the organizations I quit when I became Pledgemaster.

Overall, despite my other commitments, I’m used to balancing APO with the rest of my life. It is something that is on the top of my priority list.