

**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: Elizabeth Coughlan

Year: Sophomore

Major: Accounting

Minor: Applied Analytics

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

[  ]  IC Chair

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

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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

My vision for APO is to essentially keep the fundamental parts of APO the same while still enhancing some areas that can be improved. I really enjoy APO and I do want people to have a positive experience. I know there are a lot of areas that APO is great in, but we definitely have room for improvements and new ideas. I would want excomm to communicate well and be united so that the pledges can learn by example and become better actives each semester. I hope that as President I can help foster positive communication.

I envision APO to be an organization that people are happy to join and that actives are proud to be a part of. I believe that for the most part this is true but can always be enhanced with changes that serve to make actives happier. My vision would be for APO to change in ways that the actives want and that make our organization better as a whole.

I also want members to be comfortable reaching out and offering constructive criticism or suggestions to make our chapter better as more suggestions and ideas can help our chapter as a whole in the long-run.

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

I want to be President of APO because I really do love this organization and want to continue being involved with it. I joined APO to help the LA community, but I have stayed throughout the semesters because of the friendships that I have formed. I believe that my experiences in this organization have led me to gain enough knowledge about the org to become president. I want to be part of continuing to shape APO as it grows.

I also believe being VP of Membership and conducting midsemester reviews has revealed a lot of areas that APO could improve in. I want to help try to drive some change in these areas and make APO even more enjoyable overall for people and make sure people are heard. However, I also believe that the active body should have a say before major changes happen and I want to continue this next semester.

I want to continue to shape this organization while it grows and help guide it to be even better each semester. Our pledgemaster told my pledge class that she wanted us to be even better actives, not just try to replicate their behavior. I believe this is the same for the chapter in general. We should strive to be better each semester and learn from past mistakes. This is not to say that there won’t be more mistakes as this is inevitable, just smaller ones and not the same ones again.

As someone who joined first semester Freshman year, I really have loved my time in APO and it has made a huge impact in how I view my college experience as a whole. For these reasons I stated above, as well as to help the chapter continue to grow and improve, I want to be President.

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

My goals would just be to improve on the chapter as a whole with little changes that help make actives happier. I really want to keep doing what we are good at while working on areas that APO struggles with at the same time. I want to do this with the approval of the chapter and not make drastic changes that the active body as a whole does not want. I would want GBM to not only be a place for VPs to talk about upcoming events but also for actives to be a bit more engaged and be able to raise their hand and ask any concerns.

I also would want to be accessible and not overbearing. I feel like I know a lot about how this organization works and I would want this to be of benefit for the next excomm where they could feel like they could ask me questions.

I also want to bring APO to a good place standing wise. We are not in the best standing with regards to Nationals and I want to put our chapter back on track and make sure we are doing everything we need to be doing.

I also want to be a resource for other members and help them make their goals a reality. I know being on excomm can be extremely tough and people can feel burnt-out and so I would want everyone to know they can rely on me to help if they need it as I do know that president doesn’t have as many concrete responsibilities as position such as Service or Membership.

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

I want to solidify our advisor next semester. I believe I will have to time over the summer to communicate with the one that Grace Camia found at the end of last semester. I would want to reach out and see how involved they want to be. Our other advisor is not involved in our chapter, however, we have had advisors in the past come to some meetings and be involved actively in helping our chapter. I would want to offer either alternative and actually solidify this relationship especially since leadership is changing soon (Section 1 Chair) and we do need a second advisor.

A complaint that I heard a lot of during midsemesters was our delibs process. A lot of people don’t like it for many reasons. One of these being the time it takes. I believe we can look into other methods of completing it such as using a clicker. Although not everyone has one in APO, we could potentially buy some with our funds that are just sitting in the bank. Sectionals has told us we need to be using more of our money for ways that would improve the experiences of our actives and I believe this could be one way.

Another suggestion from Sectionals that I believe could help active retention is to potentially lower dues for actives that have been around for over a year. I think it a conversation worth having with next semester’s finance VPs. At Sectionals, it was suggested that we lower dues by at least 10% and this is something that I, after talking to this semesters VP of Finance, believe could be feasible. This is another way that may improve active retention in our chapter as well. This would not mean raising dues for anyone else, but using the money that we already have to do something with that improves our chapter as a whole. This is also something to look forward to if you have been active for many semesters as I know a problem some people have with APO is that it can be monotonous and similar every semester.

I think in general, like I stated above, just using the excess money that we have to do little things like reimburse for parking or other extra small costs could make our chapter happier as a whole. Though I know this isn’t necessarily under president’s position, I think it is something worth discussing as to whether our chapter is open to doing things like this, especially as it has been suggested at Sections by some of the adult APO leadership.

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.**

* I was Pledge Class President which I feel like made me more responsible and accountable. I took on an active role as PCP and was helped to plan our service event. As PCP, communication was very important especially with all the pledges in making sure that we were all taking lead and all our events were going smoothly.
* Last semester, I was VP of Service and I think I learned a lot during that position and also grew throughout it too. It involved a lot of communication with other organizations and I feel like I have a firm grasp of how APO works externally.
* This semester I really enjoyed working as Co-VP of Membership. I believe this position gave me a lot of insight into how APO works internally and also areas that the active body would like to see improvement.
* I believe that the combination of being VP of Service and Co-VP of Membership have given me a lot of insight into how our organization runs and so I hope to be a source of knowledge for individuals on excomm in order for our organization to continue to function effectively.

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?**

Other than my course load, I will be involved in Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting frat. They have weekly meetings on Wednesdays. I plan to be involved but prioritize APO. I believe that they are not hard to juggle as I did it this semester as well. I want to be pretty accessible and believe that I generally am, and so I see no reason that this would change next semester.