

**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 15thth 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

[**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? ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

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

My main vision for APO is to reemphasize our main ideals as a service organization. I wish to ensure that the pledge education focuses on creating new members who wish to better our community and our chapter. We have room to grow, as any and all organizations do. I wish to bring in and educate members who are confident and aware enough to address issues constructively and create ways to fix problems rather than multiply them. Furthermore, APO has room to grow in regard to inclusiveness in a multitude of ways. 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.

I wish for APO to focus on all its members- from pledges to associates- and give them the same degree of attention. We must be willing to accept that experience of returning members as well as the fresh eyes of incoming members can both be positive sources of constructive criticism. We should therefore be unafraid to heed the advice of all our members. Everyone, regardless of status or position, should have an active say in the direction in which our chapter is going.

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

The pledging experience varies immensely from person to person. I, myself, had my fair share of difficulties during my time pledging. As someone who was highly introverted, engaging with such a large group of people was overwhelming to say the least. In hindsight, I can say that I missed out on some great opportunities. It is here that I must emphasize something that I believe we all know to be true- our time and experience in APO correlates directly to the amount of energy we put into this organization. This is something I wish to address from the very beginning. With an awareness of the difficulty faced by those less-extroverted members, I believe pledge team can successfully find ways to bridge the gap and promote greater comradery and involvement in all instances.

Furthermore, I am a firm believer in actualizing the changes you wish to see. I want APO to be a place where you make new, unexpected friends every single semester. I do not want it to be an organization in which complacency is promoted- finding your friend group and sticking with it. Therefore, I wish to supply new coming and returning members with a revitalized mentality of open-minded optimism. College is a short span of time. We are all very privileged to be where we are and within APO we have a great opportunity to meet like-minded, service-oriented individuals. Not making the most of it would be such an immense waste. As pledgemaster, I believe I would have an active role in setting this standard for existing members and new members alike.

Lastly, I believe I can strike a much-needed balance between discipline and support. I am an individual who is stern, but incredibly willing to do as much as I can for anyone who asks something of me. Such traits can be readily applied to the pledgemaster role. I believe educating individuals and getting them through such an arduous process requires a pledgemaster who sets standards and expects pledges to meet said standards. However, compromise and support are also entirely essential aspects. I believe that I, along with my pledge team, can afford incoming pledges with the individualized attention that they need, while still establishing what is expected of them during this process. My hope is that in doing so, pledges will never be confused about what they must do, but will also feel more than comfortable in talking to pledge team and addressing any issues that arise over the ten-week period.

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

I have four main goals in applying for the position of pledgemaster. First, I would like to promote more feedback and discussion. I want all pledges to feel as if they have a voice within this chapter and know that their suggestions and ideas are supported and heard. I believe this should also go for the active body who should feel more than welcome to provide constructive ideas about how to better our pledge education system. Secondly, I wish to make the pledging process more manageable by creating a system of checkpoints. By this, I mean that larger scale projects, such as pledge class events, should have smaller deadlines for deliverables – initial idea, budget breakdown, etc. – to prevent pledges from being overwhelmed by everything at the very last minute. Furthermore, this would give pledge team ample time to check in with everyone and provide any support needed to ensure that all pledging requirements are completed. My third goal is to maximize the efforts taken by the entire chapter to meet and engage with new people. This could be done in many ways, such as the 36 questions to fall in love events, blind dates, and the pledge spotlight series I will discuss later. It will be pledge team’s responsibility to encourage a mentality of openness to meeting new people as well as incentivizing doing so- perhaps by finding methods of providing enrichment points for those who go an extra mile to do so. The fourth major goal I have for this position is to increase the involvement of the chapter in the pledging process. One good example of this was the ample communication initiated by the Alpha Lambda pledge team via the Facebook page. In continuing this trend, members of the chapter would hopefully feel more inclined to support pledges and feel as if they have the platform to offer suggestions as they see fit.

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

In taking on the position of pledgemaster, one of my main goals is to ensure that there is a higher degree of engagement expected from pledges and actives alike. All pledges should have an active role in ensuring the success of the endeavors of their pledge class including all events and all contributions made to the chapter. In return, they should have their concerns and suggestions heard and incorporated into their pledging experiences while it is still ongoing as opposed to only being able to suggest improvements for the following years. Therefore, one suggestion I wish to put into practice is a check-in method. Each week I will randomly pick one pledge to come up to the board during pledge meetings and act as a representative for the class. They should list out concerns or issues faced by the pledge class in the previous week. This could include problems surrounding planning a pledge service event or issues in successfully completing interviews. It should be noted that this is not a time for people to address complaints or concerns with individuals. For this reason, only the collective “we” will be permissible. In randomizing the process, I hope to ensure that every member of the pledge class remains attentive and aware of their own needs as well as those of their pledge brothers. In requiring that they are all equally prepared to act as a representative, it would mandate that they are openly communicative about struggles they are facing and ready to listen to those being faced by others. Then, once the issues have been listed, we will spend the time- with pledge team, president, membership, and the pledges- to discuss and list out solutions to the problems being faced. In this manner, problems will not sit and fester but rather be addressed and hopefully solved as soon as possible, bettering the pledge education process.

Secondly, I would like for pledges to feel as if they have a space to introduce themselves to the chapter. One way of doing so would be through spotlight series for the pledges. Spotlight series, previously done for returning abroad brothers, are events that highlight a certain individual. They can be an event of any type- service, fellowship, membership, etc. and are often focused around the interests of the individual being spotlighted. In asking pledges to plan their own spotlight events, it would give them a chance to share their interests and encourage active members who may share similar interests to come out and get to know them. Of course, it should be noted that this may be hard to coordinate in regard to time and may be done for enrichment points as opposed to as a pledging requirement. Despite this, the hope is that pledges would use spotlight events as an opportunity to reach out to like-minded individuals within the chapter or even encourage people to try or experience something new.

A third goal of mine would be to utilize committees to their fullest potential. First and foremost, I would mandate that pledges inform pledge team of which committee they joined within the first week of them starting to so that there is no miscommunication or last-minute struggle to reach the committee attendance goal. I believe that pledge committees are a good idea, but have room for improvement. Rather than mandating that pledge committees meet on their own time, I would instead provide time for breakout sessions during pledge meetings. This way, every pledge would be present and any questions can be addressed immediately upon being raised.

Another goal would be to properly utilize the second reflection night. Unfortunately, it seems as if this chapter does not successfully educate pledges on the minutiae of what it means to be an active member of our chapter. For this reason, I would use the second reflection night as a time to explain what differs between activehood and being a pledge and set the standard for what I expect of all of them as active members. Although this is done implicitly throughout the semester, I think greater benefit would come from taking the time to address questions and expectations explicitly as well.

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.**

Within APO, I have had experience as both VP of Membership and VP of Finance. By having experienced two semesters on executive board, I have become much more familiar with the inner workings of this chapter. I have had the opportunity to work directly with a plethora of other positions on executive committee, something that I will continue to do if elected as pledgemaster. In doing so, I learned how essential active communication is in ensuring that we collectively achieve our responsibilities in a timely, efficient manner.

Outside of APO I have worked in an education management position for five years. In this position I was tasked with training a group of 28 new employees each season, ranging from ages 14-23. In additional to completing the formal training required by my place of employment, I also acted as direct manager through the six-week season, available to discuss any personal or work-related issues. I would then relay information regarding suggested changes to the director of the park, proposing an action plan through which implementation would be detailed. In effect, I have had years of experience in serving as a mediator between a group of my employees and individuals working within other positions. This skill set could be easily transferable into the position of pledgemaster. Furthermore, as an education manager, I provided time every work day in which employees could speak freely about any issues they had with one another, with the visiting educators, as well as with their management. In this way, they would learn about formal, profession conflict resolution in a safe environment. This is something I would like to see implemented in the pledging process. During the ten weeks we ask a lot of college students who have many other responsibilities layered atop pledging our fraternity. Mindfulness and conflict resolution is key in ensuring that they do not get overwhelmed and are able to see pledging as an enjoyable experience rather than as a chore.

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 the past two semesters and managed to successfully complete my Membership and Finance responsibilities.