**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 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. You will not be allowed to pass out additional materials or papers during your speech.

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name: Aleksandra Konovnitsyna

Year: Junior

Major: Human Biology

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Kappa/Spring 2017

**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

[  ]  Fundraising Chair

[  ]  IC Chair

**PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1.   **What is your vision for APO?**

I want APO to be a chapter where everyone feels like they belong, no matter what their background is. I want every brother to feel like they have friends who care about them and for no one to feel isolated and alone. I signed up for one big happy family and although I understand that that is hard to do with such a large group of people, I want APO to stay as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

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

Freshman year, I rushed the Pan Hellenic sororities and I made it in, surprisingly. I was given bids from two sororities and picked the top one. However, once I met my “house mother”, I soon learned that a sorority where you’re judged by the color of your daddy’s credit card or the size of your clothes, was not something I wanted to be a part of. So I left and a year later, I pledged APO.   
 During the pledging process, I went through a lot of ups and downs with my pledge brothers. We experienced the nerves and the rush of happiness during DTA and banded together during a turbulent time at the end of our pledging semester. Through it all, I never regretted pledging with the people around me. Now as an Active, I want to bring that same joy and camaraderie to a new group of pledges.

I want to be there to provide support for a bunch of people who have no idea what kind of wild ride they’re about to get into, and help them as they try to figure out all of APO’s ins and outs. I want to make sure they all get wonderful Bigs that will take care of them and spoil them in the true APO tradition. I want everyone that joins APO to feel included and to never feel as though they’re not smart enough or dedicated enough to join our fraternity.

After all, not only did we pick them, they picked us.

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

I want to provide a pledging experience full of great moments and tons of fun, but I also want the pledges to bond not just with their Bigs and other Actives, but with each other. I also strongly feel that pledging is both an experience and a privilege yet understand that the incoming pledges have busy lives. I want to encourage the pledges to pass their quizzes and binders because learning both the history of the chapter as well as the members of APO is important in forming good future Actives. I also want to provide more support for the pledges to ensure that they pass their initial checks and don’t get discouraged. In sum, I want the pledges to have an incredible rushing semester and to get to know as many people as possible, but I also want to guide them into passing their pledging requirements the first time around so that they are not constantly bogged down with retakes and rechecks.

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

As stated above, I want the pledges to bond with themselves as well as with the Active body. One of my most fond memories was pledge night. Aside from pledge reflection nights, that was the only pledge event my semester. I want to create pledge only events to foster bonding among the pledge class that are optional to go to. I also want to bring back “Blind dates” to encourage pledges, actives, and associates to bond and make new friendships.

        Additionally, I want my pledges to have the free time to go to these pledge only events and blind dates, something they can’t do if they constantly have retakes and rechecks. Thus, I want to provide more support to my pledges. I would like to bring back binder pre-check events on the weekend before binder checks. I also want the pledges to support each other and study together so that everyone can go to more events and blind dates.

        Further, toward the end of the semester, some pledges feel that they no longer have a fun event to look forward to. Thus, I’d like to work with excomm to create something similar to Active’s retreat, but only with Big little pairs or with pledges alone. By giving it a fun acronym, it adds an extra event and another surprise to the end of the semester to boost morale and dedication.

5. **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.**

My Sophomore year, I was a Teaching Assistant for Russian I, II, and III. Under this position, I held office hours every Friday evening, created, distributed, proctored, and graded exams, and was always there for my students to answer any questions they may have had. I’ve answered thousands of emails and held review sessions up to 2-3 in the morning. I was there for my students when they were struggling and held one on one conferences with them if they needed it. While I don’t have leadership experience in APO specifically, I truly believe that nothing prepares you for being Pledge Master more than having your own kids, to which I can say I have had 140. I was with my kids as they grew and tackled a subject they had no experience in. This experience has given me invaluable information and experience with how to respond to unique challenges as both an educator and a resource to others, something I feel embodies what a Pledge Master is meant to be to their pledges.

Additionally, at the beginning of this semester, I became the oldest person in my lab. Since then, I have trained multiple student workers in working with children, working with delicate specimen, and making sure every guest at the museum has the best possible experience at our exhibit.

6. **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 work 4-8 hours a week at the Natural History Museum. However, as a senior member, I’m allowed a great deal of flexibility in setting my hours and how much I work. I will also be starting my volunteering at the County Hospital which will take 4 hours a week. While this seems daunting, as a pledge I volunteered at the County morgue 6 hours a week and worked 10-12 hours a week. I understand that this is not a valid comparison as Pledge Master is incredibly time consuming and have taken steps to minimize my hours at work and plan my schedule with no classes on Tuesdays or Thursdays and only one lab instead of two.