

**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: Andrew Turpin

Year: Senior

Major: International Relations, Geographic Information Science & Technology Progressive Degree

Pledge Class (Year): Alpha Zeta, Spring 2015

**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 vision for APO is quite simple; I want us to be recognized as the premier service organization on USC’s campus. I would love nothing more than to see our chapter fill lecture halls in Taper, volunteering at every event, at every organization’s philanthropy, and always there to help even in just small acts of kindness. I want APO to be the first thing that jumps into someone’s mind when they take the leap to make a positive change in the world.

I believe this begins with pride in the organization. Pride in wearing your letters, knowing what they stand for is a desire to do good in the world and to serve other people. Pride in being one of those who values service above all else. Through these values and the commitment to serving all people, it is my hope that we can attract a diverse array of individuals bound together by a love for service.

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

I was a wide-eyed freshman and a journalism major fresh from the quiet and rural suburb of Bonita, California. We were once known for having the most horses per capita in the United States, and I can count the number of fun things to do on one hand. Not the most exciting place in the world, and as you might imagine, not a whole lot of people to serve. Plenty of horses to feed, but not a lot of people.

Journalism took me into the city and for the first time I was face to face with a lot of the issues a big city like this could have. To say I was shocked was a vast understatement; I came back from each outing shaken to my core. The more I saw, the more I knew I had to stop seeing and start doing. And at an end of the year party I planned and pulled off (and can humbly say was a massive success), someone slipped me an anonymous note, the last line saying, “you have an incredible ability to bring people together and make them feel welcome.” I still have it today.

When Spring semester rolled around, I changed my major to IR (I saw it as giving me the opportunity to be more hands-on with my work) and went hunting for a way to make a change. I found it on Trousdale, when Richard handed me a rush card. We’re coming up to the almost three-year anniversary of that day, and looking back I can’t imagine my life without this organization. I’ve gained so much from this organization, from a deep understanding of what it means to serve, to some of the best friends I could ever ask for, to what I can confidently call a home far away from Bonita’s rolling hills.

APO has given me so much. I want to make sure the next pledge class gets even more.

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

Pledgemasters have often been criticized for being too strict or not strict

enough. I will be neither of these; I will be fair. Making the right decision isn’t arbitrarily

being hard or soft, but critically examining all aspects of a situation and doing what’s

right based on the circumstances. Some occasions call for respect of the rules that our

program is based upon, other occasions call for compassion and understanding based

on special circumstances. It is all circumstantial, and I believe that going into the

position aware of this makes me and the rest of pledge team able to handle these

situations correctly and fairly.

Speaking of pledge team, I want to ensure that the puncles/paunties are I are a solid and cohesive team. We are a pledge TEAM, and as the greatest professor I’ve ever had taught me, good teams: communicate well, cooperate well, and care about each other. I want to integrate these lessons into our semester, so we can give the pledges an amazing and fulfilling pledging semester. I also aim to extend this team mentality to the rest of eboard, so the semester is great for everyone involved.

One of my biggest goals but one of the hardest to achieve as it is the most intangible is to foster a great sense of friendship within the pledge class, both with each other and

with the rest of the chapter. I desire this because many of the friendships I have made

within APO, both inside and outside of my pledge class, are friendships that I greatly

treasure and some I truly believe will be lifelong. Friendship is not something you can

create artificially, they just happen. But what you can do is create an environment for it

to happen in. By using my natural talent to bring people from all walks of life together

and make them feel at home, I hope to give the pledges as enriching as experience as I

had.

Finally, I aim to ensure sustained and open communication with the chapter, eboard, and the pledge class. It has long been a joke that I am bad at responding to messages, but I will change this come next semester, and indeed have begun making a conscious effort now in preparation. I promise wholeheartedly that communication will not be an issue next semester, as I understand through my many experiences how vitally important it is to the success of any mission.

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

I’ve seen a lot of pledgemasters and a lot of pledge classes, and I’ve been honored to be a big to four amazing littles. I’ve seen how different ideas affect the pledge class, and mine are as follows:

-Pledge missions are to be restructured around the idea of leadership, friendship, and service. Friendship will be the video we all know and love. Leadership will be fulfilled by serving on a pledge committee chaired by one of the pledge officers in charge of an event. This will give them valuable experience in accomplishing a goal and take some of the weight off of the pledge officers’ shoulders so they’re not working alone. Service will be a “community profile” in an attempt to learn more about the people we serve. It will essentially be an interview, with reduced requirements, with the goal of gaining greater understanding and empathy of the community and various issues.

-Pledgemaster office hours will be established. As you’ve seen, my schedule is fairly flexible, and so I will commit myself to being in a certain location for a fixed and communicated time each week. Anyone who wishes to discuss any issue can come and do so away from others’ eyes.

-Pledges will perform an “act of kindness” once a week. This can be anything from cooking for your roommate, or calling your parents if you haven’t talked to them in awhile. They then will write something on what they did and how they think it impacted the other person. This can range from a short note to a ten-page essay—whatever they think is necessary to convey what they did. There will be no grading, and verification will be based on the honor system. It would defeat the purpose of a random act of kindness to immediately seek documentation and verification for that act. If anyone chooses to lie, then they are only doing themselves a disservice.

-Few know this, but pledging requirements have grown more and more strict as the semesters have passed, especially regarding interviews. Though I have few specifics yet, I aim to reform the system and make it easier to accomplish interviews. Associates will count more than they have, and abroad brothers fully and for enrichment points. In addition, the number of interviews required will be dropped to account for the other ideas I aim to implement so that pledging is not an inherently stressful experience, but a deeply fulfilling one.

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.**

Through my time in APO, I’ve served as VP of Membership, Pledge VP of Service, and Phi Fam Head. I’ve been a big to four incredible littles, have been active every semester that I wasn’t pledging or in another country, and this coming spring will mark the three-year anniversary of me joining this amazing organization. I’ve learned so much about this organization, from many different angles and I want to apply all that knowledge to educate the next generation of our chapter. And with four littles, I’m very experienced in the process of guiding people into activehood.

Outside of APO, I’ve served in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as Risk Manager and Philanthropy Chair for Chi Phi Fraternity. These roles have taught me better than anything the values of organization, communication, and working in a team to accomplish a greater goal. As Risk Manager especially, I have had to be very detailed and methodical in planning and made some very hard calls in the heat of the moment. There is nothing like this role to give you a trial by fire in what it means to lead with authority.

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 ensuring and securing employment for the following year, I am very free (I’d like to note I have work lined up, I’m just trying to give myself as many options as possible). Two of my classes being Masters courses and online opens up my schedule as I intend to do them in the morning (I’m a naturally early riser). Other than my social fraternity Chi Phi, in which events are optional, and Delta Phi Epsilon—the IR fraternity—I have no obligations and large amounts of time to devote to the chapter and to the pledge class.