

1. Explain your interest in serving as this board position. If you are applying for multiple positions, briefly describe your interest in each.

As I am apply for two board position, I will first explain my interest in the treasurer position then later explain my interest for the position of the Chairman of the REACH/GS chair.

The position of treasurer requires commitment to budgeting and assuming fiscal responsibility for the AMSA organization. My interest arises from my previous experience of working with budgets and understanding finances for larger groups. Ultimately, my interest is engrained in such responsibilities. I believe I can be a valuable asset to the AMSA organization and use my previous endeavors to assist with budget management in the upcoming year. I hope to work with different committee chairs to ensure an efficient system of communication and an organized budget. Along with this, I hope to branch out and help other board members as well, extending my responsibilities beyond my position as treasurer.

In the past semester, I have been a part of the REACH/GS committee, which helped me understanding the preparation that goes with committee-led presentations. Working with Andrew, I helped prepare for these presentations by doing research and communicating with other committee members for preparation. Through this semester, I have learned from working with my committee, as well as observing other committees, the importance of a charismatic leader. While I have learned a lot in the last semester, I have much to learn as the chair of the REACH/GS committee. And through these abilities, I hope to help the committee develop; this will not only help those in the committee, but general members as well. As the chair, I will emphasize acceptance and understanding, the two central ideas of REACH, and hopefully help members realize the importance of these ideas in the developing field of medicine.

2. Explain your strengths and how they will contribute to your performance as a board member. If you are applying for multiple positions, be specific about how your strengths support each position you are applying for.

To talk about your strengths is a difficult task, because if you try to maintain a modesty, you sound incompetent and unqualified, but on the other end of the spectrum, if you try to sound impressive, it comes off as pretentious and narcissistic. So I will hope to avoid both of these extremes, and I hope that readers don't associate myself with the aspects which I am trying to avoid.

Throughout my experiences I have developed numerous abilities, but I shall focus on the skills of organization, leadership, and teamwork.

Organization is an important quality for any leader, because it requires a balancing act: I must be able to keep order and control, but not to the point of suffocating those around you. If working in a group, you need to be able to trust others to complete their assignments, instead of micromanaging every aspect of the group. This will be important as REACH/GS chair, because I must trust my committee members to assist me, but I must guide them at the same time. As a treasurer, organization of a concise budget is important; I must be organized with my contacts and financial organization. I must be able to contact ASUC for financial compensation, while also regulating the budget within the group dynamics. While working with committee members, I must again achieve the aforementioned group-balance.

Leadership is important in an executive position, regardless of what position, but it is especially important as Treasurer or chairman of REACH/GS. As the former, I must be the representative of AMSA when working with the ASUC for financial compensation, in which I must assert myself for the benefit of the group. While working with members in the group, I must understand the budget and assume the financial responsibilities. This means working with groups for compensation, but at the same time, maintaining my relationship with the president. I must keep the president informed of the financial situation, and understanding this responsibility of reporting to the president is another aspect of being a leader. Being a leader is not exuding confidence, it is understanding structure and niche within that hierarchy.

Teamwork is a complement of leadership, in that these roles are intertwined. A leader cannot being a leader without the confidence of those whom he leads, and this confidence arises from working alongside these members. Instead of considering myself different, I hope to work with those whom I am supposed

to lead, to work with them. I have to be willing to work with the REACH/GS committee instead of just distributing my responsibilities. It is important to direct members, but you must be willing to work with them if assistance is needed. As treasurer, working with other committees and the president requires cooperation and mutual respect, both aspects of teamwork. Working with ASUC requires similar qualities: I must be willing to work with them to ensure an efficient relationship and collaboration.

Through these explanations, I hope AMSA members understand my qualifications to become a board member.

3. Describe your experience in previous leadership roles.

Since I am only a freshman, I have not had an opportunity to gain any leadership roles at UC Berkeley, so I must therefore rely on my high school experience as reference.

During my high school career, I held multiple student government positions, such as class vice president, ASB Vice President, and ultimately, ASB President. These positions helped me learn many of the qualities explained in the second question, because it meant working alongside other executive members to ensure the best for the student body. Throughout the earlier years, I observed older members and learned from their achievements and mistakes. During my years as president, I fundraised over a thousand dollars for the Haiti relief fund, helped plan activities on campus, and coordinated several large events such as the annual Homecoming Parade.

As a high school athlete, I played soccer and basketball, while running track. Possibly some of the most humbling experiences of my life arose from these competitions, because there is always someone stronger/faster/quicker/better than you, but you can't give up. You worked diligently every day in practice to beat them regardless; it was all you could do. Ultimately, this attitude helped me earn the Captain's band my senior year playing soccer, and it helped me understand more than other leadership positions. Wearing the band means that the team looks to you at times of struggle as well as times of revelry. Win or lose, you have to be there for your team, and I quickly learned it was a difficult assignment, because you can't hang your head in shame after falling short. It means standing strong and never letting up, even when your spirit is crushed by frustration. Being a leader off the field requires the same qualities: when the committee or board members are frustrated and the situation seems bleak, giving up is not acceptable. Win or lose, you walk off the field knowing you gave all you had.

During my high school career, I also held the positions of Academic Challenge team captain, Brain Bowl co-captain, and the chair of multiple volunteering projects, but it seems rather superfluous – and conceited – to explain each of these in detail, because their responsibilities are acknowledged above and in the previous question.

4. Describe the goals you have for this position, and how you plan to achieve them. If applying for multiple positions, go into detail about your goals for each position.

As treasurer, I hope to provide a balanced and organized budget for the committee, and through this, ensure that the committee has the financial backing for the projects they are planning. I will work with other board members and support them financially, while at the same time being fiscally responsible. Also, I hope to bring a new voice and fresh ideas for the board, helping during brainstorming and resolving conflicts which will inevitably arise.

As REACH/GS chair, I hope to incorporate a deeper understanding of the issues facing medicine in the current environment. Whether that be empathy towards those who suffer because of discrimination or understanding both sides of an issue, I will hope to provide an objective and in-depth analysis of these issues. This will be important for both committee members and general members hoping to continue into the field of medicine because it would help them understand issues from a different perspective. Medicine is not just a profession, it is a relationship, and I hope as REACH/GS chair, I can help people understand this.

