MY NAME IS ELENA FAVARO and I’m running for VP Academic. I am a 4th year PhD Candidate, and understand the academic challenges of being a graduate student.

A VP Academic is responsible for all academic matters affecting Graduate students. I would not only sit on a number of University committees, as well as oversee Graduate student participation on University committees at all levels.

As VP Academic, I Pledge To Advocate FOR YOU in academic matters by:

- Developing communication tools to inform all Graduate students of their rights and responsibilities under the collective agreement (e.g. funding issues, TA/RA hours, etc.)
- Being a point of contact during academic crises, and providing confidential, professional, supportive advice and guidance (e.g. academic appeals, unsuccessful candidacy exams, Student-Supervisor issues, harassment in lab/office settings, etc.),
- Advocating on behalf of all Graduate Students in matters pertaining to University Policy surrounding Graduate Student academics (e.g. Time to Completion, course load, etc., personal/medical leave, mental health initiatives)
- Engaging and collaborating with senior University officials to improve the academic experience for all Graduate students

What Experience Do I Have?

I have been involved with GSAs at Queen’s University and Western University. At the University of Calgary, I have been involved with our GSA for 4 years and I am prepared for the rigours of the VP Academic role. In my time here, I have:

- Served as the GSA’s representative for a Dean’s Search Committee
- Served as a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the GSA
- Been elected to the position of Speaker of the Graduate Representative Council (GRC) (2017-2018 – Resigned to run for this position)
- Been a Mentor with Mentorship GSA (2017-Present)
- Served two terms as the President of the Geography Graduate Students Association (2015 to 2017)
- Served as the Geography Graduate Students Association representative on the Graduate Representative Council (2015-2017)
  - Awarded the Graduate Research Council Distinguished Service Award (2016)
- Served on the Graduate Student’s Association Ad Hoc Health and Dental Plan Committee (2015-2016)

Why Should I Be Your Next VP Academic?

- I have extensive knowledge of University and GSA by-laws and policies
- I have been a member of committees at the University of Calgary as well as organizations at the local, provincial, and national levels I have chaired committees at these various levels and understand the policies and procedures that govern these meetings
- I have managed projects from inception to completion at the University of Calgary (e.g., Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies 2015 Student Conference) and elsewhere.
- I have spoken to 9 former and current members of the GSA Board of Directors about their responsibilities and time commitments in their roles and am fully prepared for the demands of this position.
I am not only prepared but incredibly enthusiastic about the opportunity to represent you in the role of Vice President Academic. Come by the Election Forum on 27 February starting at 5pm in ST147 to ask questions and meet all the candidates. Voting will take place on D2L on March 12th and 13th.

Check out my website at: elenafavaro.wixsite.com/2018vpa