My name is Will Wilson, and I am running to represent YOU as VP Academic. I am an MSc. Neuroscience student, and I want to provide a clear and achievable plan to help you get the most out of your graduate experience and prepare you for what comes next. Below are my four major objectives and how I aim to achieve them.

**Rebranding of Awards and Scholarships**
Two major barriers to winning awards are awareness and perceived eligibility.

**Perceived Eligibility:** Rebrand awards and scholarships to make the criteria more inclusive and generate broader appeal. Through rebranding I aim to change student perception of award criteria encouraging eligible applicants to apply, better distributing funds throughout the student body.

**Awareness:** Create an individualized list of awards that you are eligible for that will appear on your U of C portal. This will save students time and effort when searching for awards.

**Industry Connection**
Only a small portion of graduate students will end up in academia, so it’s critical to prepare students for diverse career paths.

**Contact:** Create greater connections with industry by incorporating industry panels, booths, and workshops at GSA organized conferences and symposia.

**Partnerships:** Work with VP external to build partnerships with companies for recruitment and funding opportunities.

**GSA Accessibility**
As a diverse and dispersed population, the graduate student body faces the unique challenge of being divided across campuses and field of interest.

**Unify:** Provide workshops, meetings, and academic opportunities at both Foothills and Main campuses. Provide information office hours at Foothills campus as a direct point of contact for students; ensuring each student’s connection to the GSA is not limited by convenience.

**Directory:** Create an internal directory comprising the fields of interest of graduate students to promote collaboration and sharing of ideas and expertise. If you are looking to learn outside your discipline, you will be able to connect with other students who possess that expertise.

**Counselling support and International Students**

**Counselling:** Collaborate with VP Finance and Services to ensure the sustainability of the new counselling programs to support graduate students as they progress through their degrees.

**Extended Orientation:** Enhance ‘Extended Orientation’ to provide International Students with the knowledge and support to adjust to their academic environment.

**Competitive Advantage:** Provide conference and other opportunities to make international students more competitive for awards.
Will Wilson

My Experience:
- Currently serve as a committee member for the Hotchkiss Brain Institute Training Organization (HBITO) Education Committee
- Currently serve as a committee member for the GSA Ad Hoc Health and Dental Plan Committee
- Served as an international research exchange scholar and ambassador from the U of C at the University of Oxford.
- Mentor with the Neuroscience Student Association (NSA)

I have a supervisor that has experience with a student in the GSA and navigating commitments. I am excited to bring organization and action to this GSA role.

Come by the Election forum on Feb 27, 2018 at 5pm in ST147 to hear more about the candidate’s platforms, and don’t forget to Vote on March 12th and 13th through your D2L

https://www.facebook.com/WillWilsonforVPA/

Where there’s a will there’s a way... and I’ve got two
Will Wilson for VPA