My name is Patrick Sauriol, I’m a first year PhD student in the Political Science department and I’m running to be the VP Admin for the GSA. I have been involved in campus and student politics most of my academic career, previously being VP of the University of Toronto Young Liberals as well as socials and policy director. I was also the class representative for my year at the Peace, Conflict, and Justice Society at the University of Toronto, and was responsible for organizing events and ensuring the voice of my peers was heard with the program administration.

I’m running to be the Vice President of Administration for the GSA because the GSA needs to be made into a force for the benefit of grad students and better support our grad student population. Many students don’t know what the GSA does for them and the services they provide. I want to ensure transparency, not only from the GSA but also from the administration. Grad students should have a better idea of the services they can access as well as the decisions that affect them. I believe the GSA should represent the students. The Association’s first responsibility should be to being a voice for students and ensuring they feel adequately represented within the University. In my role along with my possible colleagues on the executive team, I will work to ensure you are being heard and represented.

I also want to make The Phoenix a better place to hang out. In my role as VP Admin presiding over the executive committee of The Phoenix, I want to work to make it a more welcoming environment and be able to hold more events there for students like open mic nights or a battle of the bands. The space is a great space for meeting, and needs more options for things to do along with being a great pub. I also want to help people feel a better sense of community in grad school. It is a stressful time for everyone and can feel lonely at times with so much work going on. In conjunction with other members of the GSA exec, I will help to organize more social events for grad students to help get to know your peers across faculty and departments.

If elected, I will help keep the GSA accountable for the graduate student population. I am interested in this role because the position of VP Admin will help me achieve my goals with the GSA; better transparency, supporting the rest of the GSA in creating a more open and social environment for grad students, and revamping the Phoenix as a meeting hub for grad students.