Dear Committee Members,

During my time at SUNY Potsdam, Michael Popovic was my professor, advisor, and mentor. It is my sincere pleasure to submit a letter of support on behalf of Michael Popovic and his application for tenure.

I first met Professor Popovic in Introduction to International Relations in the spring of 2017. I had come into the school with an undeclared major and was toying with the idea of a degree in politics. Seeing as Introduction to International Relations was a requirement of that major and was being offered that spring, I took the class on a whim. I never expected to fall in love with international affairs and politics. Of course I found the subject matter riveting, but what truly convinced me to major in International Relations was Professor Popovic’s passion in the classroom.

From Introduction to International Relations to earning my degree, every class I took with Professor Popovic was enlightening. His passion for the subject remained contagious and was apparent in every lecture and class discussion. I was consistently impressed by the engaging lessons, unique assignments, and Professor Popovic’s seemingly endless knowledge of international affairs. Even at eight in the morning, I was always excited to learn from Michael Popovic.

During my sophomore year I was very seriously considering transferring to a different school, Michael Popovic was a very large part in my decision to stay. I knew, no matter where I went, I wouldn’t receive a better education than the one Professor Popovic could offer me.

Despite how much I loved his classes, his teaching ability is somehow not what sets Professor Popovic apart from other professors. It’s his heart. Michael always pushed me to be my best. Because of him, I took classes that I initially feared were too difficult and participated in an amazing internship program in New York City. Michael always believed in me, even when (especially when) I didn’t believe in myself. He pushed me to challenge myself and taught me to believe I could do anything I set my mind to.

He was always willing to talk with me, rather that be during a break in class, his office hours, or running into each other in Becky’s. Not only did he happily answer my billions of questions about political theory and the inner workings of international trade agreements, but he also took a genuine interest in my life. When I was going through rough patches, I knew I could go to Michael and he would do whatever he could to help. When I was celebrating a good grade or an achievement in my personal life, I could tell him and he would share in my excitement. When my brain was just overloaded and I needed to decompress, he always had a funny story to share. When I was freaking out because the world shut down during my last semester of college, Michael was checking in and making sure I was alright.

From teaching me how to correctly cite sources in an academic paper, to watching me graduate Summa Cum Laude, Michael Popovic was there for me in every step of my college career. Not only is he an incredible professor, he is an incredible person, and an incredible part of the Potsdam community. He has my highest endorsement for his tenure application.

Sincerely,

Hannah Rosicka

Hannah Rosicka

Class of 2020