I am **Atena Qaedi** - a master’s student in Economics and VP Finance & Services of EGA (Economics Graduate Association). I am running for the **VP academic of the GSA**. The VP Academic directly deals with all academic-related issues of graduate students, including sitting in several university committees. It is part of VP academic’s job to address graduate student academic appeals and oversee GSA Awards.

*My first aim of running for this position is to Facilitate the GSA’s main mission to provide full support for all the graduate students.*

**My main strategic goals:**

- Enhance transparency and information cycle through development of more efficient communicative tools:
  - I believe that information is a vital element for the success and well-being of graduate students. GSA as the representative of graduate students is expected to be able to provide as much information as possible specifically those directly relevant to their rights and duties under the Collective agreement.

- Plan and organize graduate student enrichment events and ask for their concerns and feedback on the main issues.

- Update Terms of Reference for GSA-adjudicated Awards, Grants, and Bursaries.

- Advocate for the interests of graduate students on issues, such as academic appeals, grievances, and Student-Supervisor issues.

- Advocate for the students concerns on the development of University policies, academic services and activities.

- Oversee students’ participation on various University committees, such as GSA Awards Committee.

- Increase students’ entrepreneurial knowledge:
  - provide more opportunities as tuition fee grants similar to the existing ENTI 781 & ENTI 785 courses to expand entrepreneurial and innovative thinking among the graduate students.

**Final words:** *GSA is the representative of the graduate students and it should concern itself with all their issues and try to provide as much support and guidance as possible to help all the members it represents. I am going to put all my energy to improve the students’ comfort and quality of life. Moreover, issues such as securing more sources of funding and awards for qualified students, supporting travel expenses to conferences and seminars, holding necessary events and workshops are among the main aspects of my agenda.*

*Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in my abilities and allowing me to assume the VP Academic position. It would be my honour and privilege to serve all the graduate students of the University Of Calgary.*