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Empathy has always been crucial to me on both personal and institutional levels. The key point for me is that I am running as a representative of the academic community – a spectrum of attitudes and stimuli – rather than as an individual. I am running for the Academic Senate as a FAMU student who has tended more towards studying at HAMU for a great part of my life, so I have a personal bond with both schools. Also, I often work on projects with DAMU students. This is why connecting these seemingly incompatible worlds is both vital and natural to me, and I consider support for inter-Faculty cooperation and dialogue highly important.

To me, being an AMU senator means being the mycelium – becoming an intermediary for communication between the individual elements of the Faculty and provide the ‘soil’ required for a successful growth and bloom of the whole. To me, being an AMU senator means being open and listening to various stances and opinions, feedback from students, teachers and the individual Faculties, and playing a controlling role.

I perceive AMU as a university with a long-standing tradition and extensive experience. It has history it can be rightly proud of. This does not mean that it should get stuck in such values and rest on its laurels, however: I actually believe it is important to look forward and around you, pay attention to the world around you, and be inspired as well as inspire. This also involves constructive criticism that can boost the development of institutional culture. This is the only way that a school can motivate students towards artistic development under its guidance, so that they will proudly refer to it as their *alma mater*.

This is why the next vital topic for me is encouraging inclusion and diversity – a university should be a place where each member of the academic community feels being heard, included and supported to the maximum extent possible regardless of their age, gender, creed, race or political preferences.

I must mention my thrill over the formation of the Environmental Panel on academic soil – I think it was an excellent step forward and I will support the Panel with all my might since I am convinced that fighting for climate justice requires taking specific steps towards maximum possible sustainability, and schools should set an example for the general public.