

Bc. Tomáš Hlaváček

About me

Before enrolling at the Department of Documentary Film of FAMU where I am currently in my third year of studies, I studied Philosophy and Media Studies at Masaryk University, and then I studied at FaVU in the Intermedia Studio. As a result, I gained varied study and student experience as regards the operation of various universities, involving high standards and requirements including procedural affairs, and it has allowed me to gain an insight into the diversity of attitudes to studies, to the position of a student and a teacher, and to the mutuality of the academic community. My documentary and journalist experience has taught me to not only listen to and observe social debate and its individual members but also to get involved in it, knowing that only well-considered activity leads to change.

Idea portfolio, or the prism through which I view the Senate, and how I want to work

1. The Senate as a democratic and a democratising forum

The Senate certainly has its set agenda concerning the operation of the school (approving the budget and various regulations), which I believe I can do justice also thanks to my previous education. I also see the role of the Senate in co-creating a forum where any topic or conflict can be played out and, through discussion of all involved parties, transformed into a comprehensible result, which is worded in a rational and competent manner (unlike in discussion forums and social media where discussions can get heated, which is something I do not condemn).

2. A modern and inspiring FAMU

The Academic Senate of AMU is a self-government body where the interests of all Faculties intersect, both shared and those that involve different viewpoints. This is why I understand the role of senators in the body to be double – being responsible vis-à-vis AMU as an institution while also defending the role of FAMU, by which the senator was delegated to AS AMU. In conversations regarding the candidanship, I found that FAMU was recently not represented equally in certain bodies, a major example being its representation on the Internal Evaluation Council, a crucial body where only one out of the nine members represents FAMU. If AMU as a school is to embody the general ideas of collaboration and mutuality, its parts (the individual Faculties) must be mutually equal, since their absence can be a source of problems. This is why I would like to contribute towards setting up close and business-like cooperation with all members of the AS defending the interests of FAMU in an attempt to join forces and make FAMU's voice stronger in the overall image, pondering and generally the future direction of AMU as such. On my part, I will strive to create an open, empathic and self-reflecting environment.

FAMU's weak position to date may suggest the Faculty's lack of interest in the operation of the entire school as a result of exaggerated and often unsubstantiated disputes within itself. In this respect, I would like to be open to learning about the situation at the other Faculties and initiating an inter-Faculty dialogue with their representatives in an attempt to bring new and inspiring idea to the school.

3. A larger FAMU

For many years, FAMU representatives have been seeking to increase the space for the school; there have been many interesting and specific proposals for extending the premises, but none of them were finalised by AMU and were in fact lost (the FSV building or the freight train station in Žižkov). I want to continue this effort because the lack of space is still apparent in school and it hinders student development.

4. Student voice

I see it as vital to learn how to perceive and understand as many student voices across FAMU and AMU as a whole. I can understand the environment of an art school where antagonistic stances can more easily turn into conflicts, but I believe that I can regain and defend the students' perspective in this respect.

In this respect, I would like to keep the student voice cultured yet strong in both directions – outwards as regards its interests and inwards in its self-reflection. I believe that, as history has shown us many times, academic students' voice brings a fresh and strong dedication to change things for the better even at times of institutional or social agony. I would like to help maintain the Senate community in a self-confident and cohesive atmosphere with such student energy.