Dear members of the academic community of FAMU,

In the following paragraphs I would like to introduce you to my programming concept for the FAMU academic senate elections.

I presume, that it would be appropriate to begin by explaining my vision of the academic senate, and the nature in which I would like to approach the senatorial position, if I were elected. I see the academic senate as an organ, whose primary purpose isn't to make decisions or direct the matters at the school in separation from the rest of the students/teaching staff. The academic senate should strive to represent and respect the interests and views of all of us. The members of both the student's chamber and the teacher's chamber are chosen from our ranks, and they remain students/teachers even after they become elected. Thus, it's my own goal as a senator to represent all of you, and to restrict my own personal views or sympathies. The main priority of myself, as well as all other senators should be to listen to the voices from the academic community and provide everyone with an opportunity to be heard and influence the goings on at the school.

Since last year, I have taken on the role of the student ambassador at the department of screenwriting and dramaturgy. Through the periodical student's evaluations, and thanks to discussions with students both within and outside of our department, I was presented with lots of stimulating ideas and interesting perspectives, but I have to say, that a large number of the student's voices are clouded with distrust and scepticism. Many students feel that their opinions will not be taken into account, and that the daily occurrences at our school must be accepted with silent resignation. This type of scepsis and cynicism has begun to spread even amongst first-year students.

That's why I think that our common goal should be to start building trust. Surely, we all feel that a focus on international and inter-departmental cooperation, support of graduates and taking on the non-ideal financial state are crucial on our common path. My intention shouldn't be just to come up with solutions. More important is doing everything to rebuild trust here on FAMU, because without trust and respect, we cannot start making a future together. It is critical that students need to be adequately informed about school matters, and the system of student's evaluations and feedback has to be simplified and used for its purpose. Two-way communication between the school management and students is at the foundation of every prestigious university. FAMU shouldn't be the exception.

Membership in the academic senate is a duty, as opposed to a privilege. If I get chosen as a senator, I will approach this position with responsibility and perspective. I see it as an opportunity to connect with students and teachers who care about the future of our school as much as I do. The senator's term of office is three years. As a second year student of a bachelor's study program, I have the potential to fully utilize those three years to serve the school and most importantly you, the students.

FAMU is my home. I assume that it has its integral place in your lives as well. To make our institution thrive, we need to base all of our actions on trust. It's everyone's responsibility to come into our shared space with an open mind and a wish to explore and understand not only our chosen fields of study, but one another as well.