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What does student engagement mean to you?

For me, student engagement means a lot of independent work, familiarizing yourself with new topics, even if you don't know your way around at first, navigating through bureaucracy and sometimes feeling desperate. But there are also those great moments when you realize that the effort was worth it. You also get to know great people who want to change the world a little bit together with you.

What advantages do you see for yourself, your university and society as a whole in your commitment, which goes far beyond the university and federal politics?

For me, student engagement offers a huge learning curve and the opportunity to build a strong network. I have developed considerably both professionally and personally. My university benefits from having a dedicated contact person for student concerns and gains additional manpower to tackle major tasks. The university management is also often faced with the challenge of being progressive and offering the best for its students. In the midst of bureaucratic hurdles that cannot be overcome by university management, students manage to break new ground and speed up processes. Society benefits from a more transparent university and from numerous projects with NGOs, associations or municipalities, where we support each other by sharing knowledge and resources.

How did you get involved?

I wanted to do more for sustainability at the university and in society. So I got involved in smaller and larger projects with student groups. I enjoyed that a lot, but I wasn't really able to bring about the systemic change I was looking for. That's why I went into university politics and got involved in the Hochschulforum Digitalisierung as a digital changemaker. This enabled me to meet the right people to initiate or support systematic change. I found the courage to take on this role thanks to the encouragement of one particular person in particular.

What was the most decisive/important point (positive or negative) of your involvement?

The decisive point for me was the realization that the solutions in the area of sustainability already exist and that it is now only up to politicians and society to act. However, progress often depends on individual people who take on pioneering responsibility. If responsibilities were generally listed clearly and transparently, many processes could be significantly simplified.