

Serving as a senator for three years (2010-2013), I became aware of the difference between shared and self-governance. I also came to realize that effective governance requires a creative counterpoint between the faculty's emphasis on professional academic priorities and the administration's representation of financial limitations and the comprehensive mission of the institution. With a M.A. in Medieval Studies from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in History from Western Michigan University, I joined the Department of History at UF in 1999. I have meanwhile initiated an archaeological summer school, which takes place every year in a different country of Europe; launched a graduate certificate program in Medieval Archaeology; and published nine books, one of which received the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association. I have met people from many fields, with many backgrounds, and with many ideas, and I have learned from all of them. I came to appreciate collaboration as the *modus operandi* of a healthy academic life and of a true self-governance. Over the last year, the university-wide debate on a number of key issues has brought a new dimension to the question of how effective shared governance is at the University of Florida. The Senate chair participates in decision making, and in that capacity represents the interests of the faculty to the administration, the Board of Trustees, and the general public. My goal is to turn that representation into a solution to the multiple challenges we face today.

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