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I came to UF in 1998 as a newly-minted assistant professor. Shortly after arriving, I served on the Constitution Committee and on the committee revamping UF's tenure guidelines. I then became involved in improving shared governance at the college and unit levels and worked with many colleagues across campus to strengthen faculty participation and give voice to faculty concerns. I served as senate chair in 2006-2007, when it was discovered that CLAS was operating on a multi-year, multi-million dollar deficit that resulted in the then-interim dean imposing austerity measures on the college. The infamous five-year plan entailed merging departments, cutting graduate programs, and ultimately firing staff and faculty, mostly without faculty input. That year the state-wide collective bargaining agreement coincidentally expired one day before control over the university was to devolve from the Regents to the Board of Trustees, thus necessitating years of contentious union negotiations. I chaired the Academic Policy Council during the 2007-2008 financial crisis that resulted in university-wide restructuring, again often done without faculty input. Yet despite the difficulties faculty faced then, none compare with the challenges we are facing today in the erosion of shared governance, incursions on academic freedom, and the pressure to turn the university into a tool of state government. As they were then, my goals will be to strengthen shared governance and preserve faculty control over the academic mission of the university, highlight the pathbreaking work of our dedicated faculty, and represent your interests as best I can.