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I was at NCSU for more than 40.5 years, from almost the beginning of its transformation into a university. I am now emeritus. I've served on many university committees over the years and served as a faculty Senator several times. My interest in faculty governance has grown in proportion with my awareness that we are seeing a disturbing weakening of faculty influence and leadership. These changes do not bode well for a vision of public higher education devoted to the common good. The events of the past year have made that particularly evident. While good faculty governance cannot necessarily guarantee that such a vision is achieved, it is certain that we have absolutely no chance without it.