



Application for Board of Trustee Position

The information submitted will be used by the Board of Governors in considering action on your application. The questionnaire MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL. Answer "none" or "not applicable" where appropriate. Please type or print.

If appointed, you will be required to file financial disclosure statements.

June 6, 2007

Date Completed

1. Name: Jones, Jr., Thomas
Last First Middle and/or (Maiden)

2. University Board of Interest: Florida A&M University

Are you applying for reappointment? Yes No

3. Residence Address: Houston, TX 77021, Harris
Street City County

4. Current Employer or Occupation: McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy, LLP

Business Address: Houston, TX 77056
Street Office#/Suite City

Post Office Box Suite Zip Code Area Code/Phone Number

E-mail Address

5. Specify the preferred mailing address: Business Home Fax # _____

6. List all places of residence for the past five (5) years.

Address	City and State	From	To
		11/2000	Present

7. List all former and current residences outside of Florida that you have maintained at any time during adulthood.

Address	City and State	From	To
	Houston, TX	77088	06/1985 11/2000
	Houston, TX	77088	07/1981 06/1985
	Houston, TX	77053	01/1979 07/1981

8. Date of Birth: _____* Place of Birth: Daytona Beach, FL

9. Social Security No.: _____*

10. Driver License No: _____* Issuing State: Texas

11. Have you ever used or been known by any other legal name? Yes No If "Yes" explain.

12. Are you a United States citizen? Yes No If "No" explain.

13. If you are a naturalized citizen, date of naturalization: N/A

14. Since what year have you been a continuous resident of Florida? N/A

15. Are you a registered Florida voter? Yes No If "Yes" list:

County of Registration _____

16. Education:

A. High School: Seabreeze High, Daytona Beach Year Graduated: 1973
(Name and Location)

B. List all postsecondary educational institutions attended:

<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Date Attended</u>	<u>Certificates/Degrees Received</u>
<u>Florida A&M Univ., Tallahassee, FL</u>	<u>1973-1977</u>	<u>B.S. Accounting</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

17. Are you or have you ever been a member of the United States armed forces? Yes No
If "Yes" list:

A. Dates of service: _____

B. Branch or component: _____

C. Date and type of discharge: _____

18. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or indicted for violation of any federal, state, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance? (Exclude traffic violations for which a fine or civil penalty of \$150 or less was paid.) Yes No If "Yes" give details:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Disposition</u>

19. Concerning your current employer and for all of your employment, including self-employment, during the last five years, list your employer's name, business address, type of business, occupation or job title, and period(s) of employment:

<u>Employer Name and Address</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Occupation/Title</u>	<u>Period of Employment</u>
McConnell Jones		CPA/Partner	01/1996-Present
Lanier & Murphy LLP	Accounting/ Consulting		

20. Have you ever been employed by any state, district, or local government agency in Florida? Yes No If "Yes", identify the position(s), the name(s) of the employing agency, and the period(s) of employment, and reason for leaving:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Employing Agency</u>	<u>Period of Employment</u>

21. State your experiences and interests or elements of your personal history that qualify you for this appointment.

See Statement 1

22. Have you received any degree(s), professional certification(s) or designation(s) including awards related to the subject matter of this appointment? Yes No If "Yes", list:

Certified Public Accountant Texas (1979)

23. Identify all association memberships and association offices held by you that relate to this appointment:

Statement 2

24. Do you currently hold an office or position (appointive, civil service, or other) with the Federal or any foreign government? Yes No If "Yes", please list:

25. Have you ever been elected or appointed to any public office in this state? Yes No
If "Yes", state the office title, date of election or appointment, term of office, and level of government (city, county, district or state):

<u>Office Title</u>	<u>Date of Election or Appointment</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>	<u>Level of Government</u>
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If your service was on an appointed board(s), committee(s) or council(s):

A. How frequently were meetings scheduled? _____
B. If you missed any of the regularly scheduled meetings, state the number of meetings attended, number missed, and the reason(s) for absence(s).

<u>Meetings Attended</u>	<u>Meetings Missed</u>	<u>Reason for Absence</u>
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

26. Have you ever served on any profit or not-for-profit board? Yes No
If "Yes", state the title, date of appointment, length of service, and provide a brief description of your involvement.

Statement 3

27. Have you ever been responsible or played a role in managing a business or other corporate entity? Yes No If "Yes", state the name of the business, the dates of your involvement, and provide a brief description of your involvement.

Statement 4

28. Describe any involvement with and/or relationship to the university to which you are applying or any other educational institution with which you are/were affiliated (other than as a student).

Statement 5

29. Describe your understanding of the role of a board of trustee member in ensuring the fiduciary and academic well-being of the university.

Statement 6

30. Has probable cause ever been found that you were in violation of Part III, Chapter 112, F.S., the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees? Yes No If "Yes", give details:

Date

Nature of Violation

Disposition

31. Have you ever been suspended from any office by the Governor of the State of Florida?

Yes No If "Yes", list:

Title of Office _____ Reason for Suspension: _____

Date of suspension: _____ Result: Reinstated Removed Resigned

32. Have you previously been appointed to any office that required confirmation by the Florida Senate?

Yes No If "Yes", list:

Title of Office: _____

Term of Appointment: _____

Confirmation results: _____

33. Have you ever been refused a fidelity, surety, performance, or other bond? Yes No

If "Yes", explain:

34. Have you held or do you hold an occupational or professional license or certificate in the State of Florida? Yes No If "Yes", provide the title and number, original issue date, and issuing authority. If any disciplinary action (fine, probation, suspension, revocation, and/or disbarment) has ever been taken against you by the issuing authority, state the type and date of the action taken:

<u>License/Certificate Title & Number</u>	<u>Original Issue Date</u>	<u>Issuing Authority</u>	<u>Disciplinary Action/Date</u>
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35. Have you, or businesses of which you have been an owner, officer, or employee, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local governmental agency in Florida, including the university to which you have been appointed or are seeking appointment? Yes No If "Yes", explain:

<u>Name of Business Statement 7</u>	<u>Your Relationship to Business</u>	<u>Business' Relationship to University</u>
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36. Have members of your immediate family (spouse, child, parent(s), sibling(s)), or businesses of which members of your immediate family have been owners, officers, or employees, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local governmental agency in Florida, including the university to which you have been appointed or are seeking appointment? Yes No If "Yes", explain:

<u>Name of Business</u>	<u>Family Member's Relationship to you</u>	<u>Family Member's Relationship to Business</u>	<u>Business' Relationship to University</u>
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37. Have you ever been a registered lobbyist or have you lobbied at any level of government at any time during the past five years? Yes No If "Yes", explain:

- A. Did you receive any compensation other than reimbursement for expenses? Yes No
 B. Name of agency or entity you lobbied and the principals you represented:

<u>Agency Lobbied</u>	<u>Principals Represented</u>
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38. List three persons who have known you well during the past five (5) years. Include a current, complete address and telephone number. Exclude your relatives and members of the Florida Senate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Area Code/Telephone Number</u>
<u>Statement 8</u>			

39. Name any business, professional, occupational, civic, or fraternal organization(s) of which you are now a member, or of which you have been a member during the past five (5) years, the organization address(es), and date(s) of your membership(s).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Office(s) Held & Term</u>	<u>Date(s) of Membership</u>
<u>Statement 9</u>			

40. Do you know of any reason why you will not be able to attend fully the duties of the position to which you have been or will be appointed? Yes No If "yes", explain:

41. Are you now, or have you within the past three years, been a member of any club or organization that, to your knowledge, in practice or in policy, restricts membership or restricted membership during the time that you belonged, on the basis of race, religion, national origin or gender? Yes No If "yes", detail the name and nature of the organization, relevant policies and practices, and state whether you intend to continue as a member if appointed by the Board of Governors.

42. Have you ever been the object of any equal employment opportunity complaint or any civil action based upon discrimination in the work place? Yes No If "yes", explain and provide details of the outcome:

43. Are there any pending lawsuits against you or are you a party to a lawsuit in any court in which you are the plaintiff or defendant? Yes No If "yes", what type and where?

44. Have any judgments been entered against you as a result of any civil or administrative proceeding(s)? Yes No If "yes", identify the proceeding(s) that resulted in the judgment and the date the judgment was entered.

45. Are you now engaged in activities, or have you engaged in activities in the past, that will reflect unfavorably on the board to which you seek appointment? Yes No If "yes", please explain.

46. Is there anything that you were not questioned about in your application that you should make known to us at this time that impugns your integrity, character and fitness for the position you are seeking? Yes No If "yes", please explain.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF ~~FLORIDA~~ ^{TEXAS}, COUNTY OF HARRIS

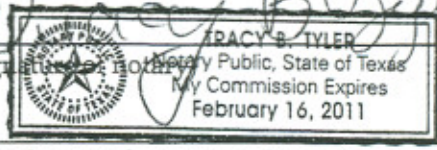
Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Thomas Jones who after being duly sworn, say: 1) that he/she has carefully prepared or read the answers to the foregoing question; 2) that the information contained in said answers is complete and true; 3) that he/she will, as an appointee, fully support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida. Be it further known that in signing this document I understand that a Level 2 background check by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will be performed on all nominees who are recommended to the Florida Board of Governors.

[Signature]

Affiant's signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 8th day of June, 2007 by Tracy Tyler

[Signature]



(signature) Notary Public, State of Texas

Tracy Tyler

(typed, printed or stamped name)

Notary Public

Commission No.:

My Commission Expires:

Personally Known ✓ OR Produced Identification 1 - - -
Type of Identification Produced TEXAS DRIVERS LICENCE

Statement 1
Experience and Qualifications

Over 30 years of accounting, financial management, banking and investment experience:

- As a Certified Public Accountant and partner in the 12th largest accounting firm in Houston, I have significant financial management experience in all facets of accounting including audit, tax and management consulting advisory services. My experience and understanding of accounting, budgets, internal controls, financial reporting and overall fiscal accountability standards is uniquely suited to the needs of Florida A&M University at this critical juncture in the school's history. Our firm's clientele includes an array of private sector companies, public sector entities, non-profit organizations and individuals. Included are several global companies such as AT&T, Shell Oil and Centerpoint Energy. More specifically, our firm has developed a niche expertise in the provision of audit and management consulting services for education entities at all levels including K-12, junior colleges and higher education institutions such as FAMU. We currently serve as outside auditor for Houston Community College, North Harris Montgomery College, Austin Community College and have performed management performance reviews for school districts in Texas (Houston ISD, Dallas ISD and El Paso ISD, et. al) and around the country (St. Louis Public Schools, Duvall County Public Schools, Cincinnati Public Schools and Knoxville Public Schools to name a few). We have also performed audit engagements for the University of Texas, University of Houston and Texas Southern University. The technical, administrative and governance related experience and knowledge I have gained over the years provides me with a an exceptional base of tools and insight that will guide me in providing a high level of board policy making, oversight and value added decision making as a member of FAMU's Board of Trustees.
- My business career also includes 15 years of banking experience in management and as an outside director. During my 10 years with Chase Bank, I managed a group that provided treasury management services to companies and organizations located in the United States as well as numerous foreign entities doing business in this country. This experience provided a sound foundation and fundamental understanding of treasury management concepts and services used by companies to properly manage cash flows on daily basis. As a founding director of Royal Oaks Bank in Houston Texas, I participated in the launching of a Denovo bank with \$6 million in raised capital in March 2001. As a member of the bank's senior loan committee and Chair of the Audit Committee, I worked to grow the bank to over \$200 million in assets. In February 2007, Royal Oaks Bank was acquired by First Banks for \$38,5 million. This successful entrepreneurial endeavor allowed me to gain an invaluable mix of analytical,

Board of Governors
 State of Florida
 Application for Board of Trustees Position – Florida A&M University
 Attachments

regulatory and financial management skills that have sharpened my conundrum of fiscal experience, knowledge and accountability.

- My personal and professional development has been enhanced by a consistent and sustained commitment to active community service. Statements 3 and 9 provide a brief summary of my volunteerism efforts which are grounded in a simple belief that is better to give than receive. I enjoy helping people and participating in activities whose outcomes are measured by positive influence on achievements in education, health, welfare and overall quality of life standards. My passion for substantive engagement with meaningful and lasting results will guide my actions, contributions and service as a member of FAMU's Board of Trustees.

Statement 2

Association Membership and Offices Held That Relate to This Appointment

For the past 5 years, I have served on the Board of Trustees of the Florida A&M University Foundation. During my tenure, I have served on the Investment Committee and Chaired the Audit Committee.

Statement 3

Board Service

Board	Titles Held	Date of Appointment	Length of Service	Description
Florida A&M University Foundation Board	Chairman Audit Committee and Investment Committee member	July 2001 – Present	6 years	I chair the Audit Committee with oversight responsibility for annual fiscal audit and various other performance audits performed over past several years. I am also a member of the Investment Committee which oversees outside investment manager performance of the Foundation's endowment. Assets under management have increased from \$60 to over \$100 million during my tenure.
Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau	Vice Chairman – Finance Committee	July 2001 – Present	5 years	I currently serve as Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee on the Executive Committee with oversight of accounting, finance and legal matters. I will assume the position of Chairman of the Board in August 2007
Galleria Area Chamber of Commerce	Board Member (Former Chair of Finance Committee)	January 2006 – present	1 year	Board member

Board of Governors
 State of Florida
 Application for Board of Trustees Position – Florida A&M University
 Attachments

United Negro College Fund	Board Member, Vice Chairman and Golf Tournament Chair	January 1982 – December 2001	9 years	Advisory board of UNCF raises money for historically black colleges and universities. As chair of the golf tournament, raised over \$750,000 for Houston Chapter.
Dominion Community Development Corporation	Board President, Vice President and Treasurer	July 1986 - May 2007	20 years	The CDC was founded the Community of Faith Church. The CDC built 85 single family residences for low and moderate-income families and redeveloped a 140 unit apartment complex for low-income families.
Royal Oaks Bank	Founding Board member	March 2001 – February 2007	6 years	Served as Chairman – Audit Committee and member of the bank's Senior Loan Committee
American Leadership Forum	Former Board Member	July 1997 – June 1999	2 years	Served as Treasurer of this leadership development organization
American Red Cross – Greater Houston Chapter	Former Board Member	1994 - 1998	4 years	Served as Treasurer and member of executive board
Trees for Houston	Former Board Member	1996 - 1999	3 years	Served as a member of the board of this organization devoted to planting trees along Houston's highways and major thoroughfares.

**Statement 4
 Management Experience**

Name of Business	Dates of Involvement	Description
McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP (MJLM)	January 1999 – Present	Partner in charge of firm's Tax, Financial Planning and Business Development/Marketing Activities
McConnell & Jones LLP	January 1996 – Present	Partner, McConnell & Jones is the registered Certified Public Accounting firm in Texas that provides Assurance (audit) services to clients as an affiliate entity of MJLM
MJLM Wealth Solutions	January 2003 – Present	President of this affiliate of MJLM, that provides investment management, retirement planning and insurance services
Royal Oaks Bank	March 2001 – February 2007	Founding board member, Chair Audit Committee and member Senior Loan Committee responsible for all lending and credit decisions
SMJ Restaurants, LLC	September 2002 – February 2006	Minority partner responsible for the construction of a Golden Corral Restaurant Franchise in Houston, Texas. Served as

		Treasurer with oversight of all accounting and finance activities.
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Statement 5

Involvement/Relationship with FAMU

I am an alumnus of Florida A&M University. I graduated in June of 1977 (Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting) from the School of Business and Industry under a mentor and friend, Dr. Sybil Mobley. For the past 6 years I have had the pleasure of serving on Board of Trustees of the Florida A & M University Foundation. I currently chair the Audit Committee of the Foundation and serve on the Investment Committee.

Statement 6

Understanding of the Role of Board of Trustee

The Board of Trustees is vested with significant policy making and oversight responsibility that is structured to ensure that the universities' president and executive management team are performing their multi-disciplinary tasks that include but are not limited to the following:

1. Compliance with the State of Florida's laws, regulations and guidelines promulgated by the State Board of Education that govern state supported institutions of higher learning.
2. A commitment of individual best effort in time, talent and wisdom to ensure that the students attending the university are provided with the highest level of educational excellence they should expect and deserve.
3. A dedication and devotion to the highest level of professionalism, integrity and ethical behavior that the stakeholders in Florida and around the country can embrace and accept without question or concern.
4. Serve as an ambassador of goodwill and an unwavering supporter of FAMU's mission, goals and objectives.
5. Accept, understand and execute the fiduciary role of a board trustee with a critical eye focused on performance and accountability standards of the highest level.
6. Maintain an independent mindset to formulate prudent, practical recommendations to the administration that require forceful action and implementation.
7. Fulfill the powers and duties as outlined in Section 1001.74 of the Education Code.

Board of Governors
 State of Florida
 Application for Board of Trustees Position – Florida A&M University
 Attachments

Statement 7
Contractual or Other Dealings in Florida

For the past 6 years I have served on Board of Trustees of the Florida A & M University Foundation. I currently chair the Audit Committee of the Foundation and am a member of the Investment Committee.

Statement 8
Personal References

Name/Title	Address	Phone Number
John Rudley Interim Chancellor University of Houston	E Cullen Building, Room 226 4800 Calhoun Houston, TX 77004	(713) 743-5550
Mr. William D. Bloebaum, Jr. (retired executive)	Performance Place #1401 109 N. Main Street Dayton, OH 45402	(937) 222-5503
Anthony Hall Chief Executive Officer City of Houston	900 Bagby St., 4th Floor Houston, TX 77002	(713) 437-6973

Statement 9
Business, Professional, Occupational, Civic or Fraternal Organizations

Name	Mailing Address	Offices Held & Term	Dates of Membership
Houston Chapter, Texas Society of CPA's			1979 to present
Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau	900 Bagby St. Houston, TX 77002	Vice Chair – Finance, (Incoming Chair)	July 2001 to present
Galleria Area Chamber of Commerce	5075 Westheimer Houston, TX 77056	Treasurer (formerly)	January 2006 to present
Dominion Community Development Corporation	1023 Pinemont Houston, TX 77018	President and Vice President	July 1985 to May 2007
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.	1519 Ruth Street Houston, TX 77004		1992 to present
Florida A & M University Alumni Association – Houston Chapter	Houston, TX	Founding Member and former President	1979 to present



McCONNELL & JONES LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
2007 JUN 11 AM 9:41

June 7, 2007

Vikki R. Shirley
General Counsel
Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Ms. Shirley:

I am pleased to enclose an Application for Board of Trustee Position at Florida A&M University (FAMU). As a graduate of the university, I have a profound and sincere interest in serving the institution, its students, faculty and other stakeholders that recognize FAMU's significant historical contributions and its enormous potential.

As a certified public accountant, I have over 30 years of accounting, audit, financial management, and banking experience. My understanding of the importance of sound internal controls, accountability and accurate financial reporting will immediately assist the university in its quest to build a solid financial and management infrastructure. I have served on numerous boards and keenly understand how important well-reasoned policy making decisions and management oversight are to the success of an institution such as FAMU. I believe that my background, experience and passion to serve are uniquely suited to the needs of the university at this critical time in the school's history.

Your consideration of my application is greatly appreciated and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my qualifications and desire to serve on FAMU's Board of Trustees in greater detail with you and the other members of the Board of Governors.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Jones Jr.