During the 110th Anniversary Celebration, Florida A&M University was selected by the TIME Magazine-Princeton Review as the 1997-1998 College of the Year. FAMU was selected from among some of the most prestigious schools in the country to be the first recipient of this honor.

In 2002, as the State of Florida’s education system underwent massive reorganization, Dr. Henry L. Lewis, III, Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was appointed interim president. Later the same year, on May 17, 2002, the Board of Trustees of Florida A&M University appointed Dr. Fred Gainous [2002-2004], an alumnus, as the ninth president. Dr. Gainous returned to Tallahassee with a vision of Creating One FAMU.

On December 14, 2004, the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees made history by appointing Dr. Castell Vaughn Bryant as interim president. Dr. Bryant, an alumna, is the first woman to lead the University in its 117 years of existence. President Bryant came with the mission of revitalizing and restructuring the University for the twenty-first century.

Originally designed to meet the needs of the underrepresented and the underprivileged, Florida A&M University continues to serve the citizens of Florida and the world through its provision of pre-eminent educational programs. These programs are the building blocks of a legacy for the hallmark of Florida A&M University: “Excellence with Caring.” FAMU, Florida’s Opportunity University, is committed to meeting the challenges and need of future generations.

On July 2, 2007, Dr. James H. Ammons, became the tenth president of Florida A&M University. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chancellor of North Carolina Central University (NCCU) from 2001 through 2006 and as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at FAMU.

While provost at Florida A&M University, he developed more than 22 bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. degree programs, and he worked to reestablish the FAMU College of Law. At NCCU, enrollment reached an all-time high during his tenure, climbing from 5,476 in 2000-2001 to 8,675 in 2006-2007—a 58.4 percent increase. NCCU became the fastest growing institution in the University of North Carolina System.

Since Dr. Ammons’ arrival at the University, he has built a top-notch, strong leadership team. In addition, he secured accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in which the board voted to reaffirm the College’s accreditation status through June 30, 2010. Under his leadership, FAMU also received its first unqualified audit in three years from the Auditor General’s Office; and this summer, the University will enroll students for the first time in a new doctorate program in physical therapy.

University Presidents

- Thomas DeSaille Tucker [1887-1901]
- Nathaniel B. Young [1901-1923]
- W. H. A. Howard [1923-1924]*
- John Robert Edwards Lee, Sr. [1924-1944]
- Jubie B. Bragg [1944]*
- William H. Gray, Jr. [1944-1949]
- H. Manning Efferson [1949-1950]*
- George W. Gore [1950-1969]
- Benjamin L. Perry [1968-1977]
- Walter L. Smith [1977-1985]
- Frederick S. Humphries [1985-2001]
- Henry Lewis, III [2002]*
- Fred Gainous [2002-2004]
- Castell Vaughn Bryant [2004 - 2007]*
- James H. Ammons [2007 - Present]

* Served/Serving in an acting or interim capacity

Governance

Florida A&M University, a member of the State University System (SUS), is under the supervision of the FAMU Board of Trustees. The FAMU Board of Trustees is comprised of twelve citizens and one student representative.

The president of the university is appointed by the Board and administers the affairs of the university, with the assistance of administrative officers, faculty, and staff.

Statements of Purpose

General Purpose: Role of FAMU within the State University System

One of ten universities in the State University System of Florida, Florida A&M University receives the definition of its role from the Board of Governors, the governing body of the State University System. The university is designated as a general purpose institution with curricular offerings in most of the arts and sciences, business, and education at the baccalaureate level and in some graduate degree programs. Further, the University has been directed to develop a set of academic programs to attract a statewide, rather than a more limited regional, student population (CF Plans for Equalizing Educational Opportunities in Public Higher Education in Florida, February, 1974, Addenda, pp. 7+).

Specific Purpose—Within the Board of Governors’ guidelines, the FAMU community endorses a more specific statement of purpose for the university.

Philosophically, the university is dedicated to the traditional ideals of learning, focusing its attention and efforts upon the creation, transmission, and application of knowledge. These ideals dictate that FAMU’s primary purpose is to advance learning and, thereby, contribute to improving the quality of life for those individuals it serves and their society.

Vision Statement

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University will provide the citizens of Florida, the nation, and the world with inspirational teaching, relevant research, and meaningful service by offering opportunities to enhance humankind.

Mission Statement

The mission of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), as an 1890 land-grant institution, is to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technological and student-centered environment, conducive to the development of highly qualified individuals who are prepared and capable of serving as leaders and contributors in our ever-evolving society. The University seeks and supports a faculty and staff of distinction dedicated to providing outstanding academic preparation at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional school levels, with a particular emphasis on integrity and ethical conduct. FAMU is committed to inspirational teaching, exemplary research and meaningful public and community service through creative partnerships at the local, state, national and global levels. The University is also committed to the resolution of complex issues that will enhance humankind.

While the University continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities are welcomed and encouraged to remain life-long members of the university community. The University, through its diverse faculty and staff, provides a caring, nurturing, collegial and respectful environment.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University holds the following values essential to the achievement of the University’s mission:

- SCHOLARSHIP
- EXCELLENCE
- OPENNESS
- FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- COLLABORATION
- DIVERSITY
- SERVICE
- FAIRNESS
- COURAGE
- INTEGRITY/ETHICS
- RESPECT
- COLLEGIATE
- FREEDOM