

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Appoints Shelby F. Thames to Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has named University of Southern Mississippi President Shelby F. Thames to the Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning representing the Governor for a term of office that shall be concurrent with that of the Governor.

“Shelby Thames has been serving Mississippi with distinction through his tenure at USM, and I appreciate his continuing that service on this task force,” Musgrove said. “His experience and insight will be invaluable in the work of this group.”

Thames took office as president at USM on May 1, 2002. He has worked at the university for 38 years, most recently serving as chair of the Department of Polymer Science. Other university positions have included dean of the College of Science and Technology, vice president for Administration and Regional Campuses, and executive vice president. Thames founded the Department of Polymer Science at USM in 1970.

After earning BS and MS degrees from USM in chemistry and organic chemistry, Thames earned his doctorate from the University of Tennessee in organic chemistry.

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