



20 April 2021

President George T. French,  
Members of the Board of Trustees, CAU  
Clark Atlanta University  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear President French,

I write in support of changing the name of the Department of Political Science to the Mack Henry Jones Department of Political Science. I am an alumna of the program, earning M.A and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science. My years as a graduate student at Atlanta University in the early to mid-1970s were a time of considerable intellectual growth. Dr. Jones supervised my M.A. thesis and was very supportive of both my research and professional goals over the subsequent decades.

After completing my studies, I taught at public and private HBCUs, including Hampton University, where I led the Department of Political Science. Later, I joined the faculty at Hood College, where I founded the African American Studies program, led the Department of Political Science, and co-directed a four-year Honors Department over a span of 26 years.

Dr. Mack Jones has been a source of inspiration for many. Intellectually, his commitment to scholarly work of the highest standards for himself and others, has been motivating for me and for others. Early in his career, he published articles on the study of Black politics in which he coined key phrases still in use many decades later. Maybe even more importantly has been his steadfast commitment to working for the interests of those who have been shut out of the political system. Dr. Jones has never deviated from understanding how power works in this country and how urgent is the need to change the status quo. His commitment is not narrow; he is moved to speak and write about global politics and supports all who labor to change post-colonial realities.

It would be accurate to say that the curriculum Dr. Jones helped to implement for graduate students at Clark Atlanta University has deeply influenced my professional and personal life. I have used his vision and commitments to design curricula, advise students, and contribute to the development of Black politics.

I fully support this change in name for the Department which Dr. Jones led for many years and which he helped to shape. He has changed the study of Black politics and the lives of those who study it.

Sincerely,

Hoda Zaki, Professor Emerita of Political Science

Hood College