



2 Union Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
www.esc.edu
518-587-2100

27 April 2021

President George T. French
CAU Board of Trustees
Clark Atlanta University
223 James P. Brawley Dr, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314

RE: Naming the Department of Political Science for
Dr. Mack H. Jones

Dear President French and Members of the CAU Board of Trustees;

I, MaryNell Morgan-Brown, am an alumna of Clark Atlanta University (1977, MPA and 1987/88, PhD). I am pleased to write a letter for the Alumni Naming/Internal Process Committee in support of naming the CAU Department of Political Science for Dr. Mack H. Jones. I think it is appropriate in the year 2021 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the doctoral program in political science by naming the department in honor of its founding chairperson.

I matriculated in the Department as a non-traditional student while Dr. Jones was serving as the chairperson. By non-traditional, I mean that I did not go directly from undergraduate to graduate school. After I received my B.A. I had taught high school; worked for the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services; and completed a Master's Degree of Public Administration (at then Atlanta University). After I completed my M.P.A., I was awarded a fellowship by the faculty of the Department of Political Science and I was hired as a faculty member by the AU Department of Public Administration.

Dr. Jones and the political science faculty encouraged students to address them informally, so, I will refer to him as Mack in the remainder of this letter. This informal practice showed respect for students, deemphasized hierarchy, and promoted collegiality among faculty and students. I credit Mack's leadership and vision with creating an egalitarian culture that valued collective economics and encouraged the study of political institutions and processes from the perspective of African diaspora experiences.

I remember my pre-admission interview with Mack. He had done a close reading of my application essay. He assured me that he and the faculty were pleased to accept

my application and to award me a fellowship to cover two years of coursework in the Ph.D. program.

As part of my orientation to the discipline, Mack designed an Independent Study to strengthen my knowledge of political science. That was a valuable learning experience for me because my undergraduate major had been English (with two minors, Mathematics and Education), rather than political science. That Independent Study and Mack's rigorous Scope and Methods course are responsible for creating my enduring respect for Mack's knowledge, teaching, scholarship, mentoring, and leadership skills.

Mack's article, "A Frame of Reference for Black Politics," was my early, possibly my first, introduction to his scholarly work. Mack and I had a discussion about his article. In our discussion, I wondered about his choice of words for stating the relationship between Blacks and Whites in a way that seemed to (unintentionally) accept the false idea of White as superior. He assured me that he would think about my comments. He did, and in a later conversation at an annual meeting of the National Association of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS), he told me that he had revised the article and had taken my comments into consideration.

On the topic of NCOBPS, Mack was a founding member, one of the early presidents, and he played an instrumental role in my first participation as a panelist at the 1977 conference. NCOBPS has played a significant, and indispensable role on the national and international stages of academic and practical political science. A fuller narrative on Mack and NCOBPS adds a strong argument for naming CAU's Department of Political Science in his honor.

In conclusion, I will offer an abbreviated draft of my naming resolution; it is a work in progress. WHERE AS: Dr. Mack H. Jones (1) was the founding chairman of the PhD Program in the Atlanta University Department of Political Science; (2) has made major contributions to the study of Black Politics by creating a department that studies political science from the perspective of the experiences of the African Diaspora; and (3) has demonstrated excellence in his knowledge, teaching, scholarship, mentoring, and leadership in the academic and practical field of political science; BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT: the Clark Atlanta University Department of Political Science is named The Mack H. Jones Department of Political Science.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

MaryNell Morgan-Brown, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
SUNY-Empire State College
mnellm49@gmail.com
518-692-7019