



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

April 30, 2021

Dr. George T. French,
President, Clark Atlanta University

and

Members of the Board of Trustees,
Clark Atlanta University

I submit this letter in support of the naming of our Department of Political Science in deserved recognition of Mack H. Jones' outstanding contributions to our institution and our discipline.

Mack Jones is a renowned teacher and scholar. He has instructed students in major institutions in the United States and Nigeria, including Atlanta University, Clark Atlanta University, Howard University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Ahmadu Bello University. He is remembered by his students as a gifted, inspiring teacher. Beyond the classroom, Mack Jones' scholarship has shaped the work of many analysts of national and international politics. His inaugural presidency and address to the National Conference of Black Political Scientists still resonate and inspire; his publications in the areas of methodology, black politics and international relations influence the fields of black, minority, and subaltern studies. Generations of students continue to benefit from being taught by those whom Mack Jones taught. He has brought distinction to our department and this institution.

When I came to the United States in 1979 to pursue my doctorate degree at Atlanta University, I was welcomed into a program that was diverse, progressive, rigorous, and grounded in a commitment to articulating a black perspective and understanding of political and economic realities both in the United States and around the world. I joined a multiracial, multi-national, ideologically diverse departmental faculty and student collective. Mack Jones and his colleagues were developing a graduate program that was making a salient contribution to the socially relevant impulses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in general, and specifically Atlanta University, Clark Atlanta University, and the Atlanta University Center. They created a departmental ethos and have encouraged a body of scholarship that is in the tradition and keeps alive the spirit of W.E.B. Du Bois's elaboration of the responsibilities of our colleges and universities. Mack Jones encouraged an internationalist, Pan-Africanist, critical perspective on national and global

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politics. He recruited students from around the world. We felt welcome and energized. Mack Jones was the first ever instructor of color who had taught me in my formal education experiences. He was, and continues to be, a role model, mentor, and the best teacher I have had. I studied international politics, American politics, and research methods under Mack Jones. I had previous substantial introductions to these matters, but Mack Jones sharpened, deepened, extended, and diversified my understandings. Mack Jones served as the chair of my dissertation committee. He probed, cajoled, and encouraged me in this scholarly journey. I am indebted to him. He supported me in many ways during my stint as Department Chair, and he continues to urge me on as a scholar.

Mack Jones is a living legend. I join with so many colleagues in urging your endorsement of the naming of our cherished, respected department as the **Mack H. Jones Department of Political Science**. I thank you for consideration and support of this Naming initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Hashim T Gibrill, Ph.D.
Former Chair, Department of Political Science, CAU
Class of '84 AU