

***850 East Ocean Boulevard  
Unit 302  
Long Beach, CA 90802***

April 27, 2021

Dr. George French, President  
Clark Atlanta University  
223 James P. Brawley  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

CAU Board of Trustees

Dear Dr. French and CAU Board of Trustees,

The students that Dr. Mack Henry Jones taught, mentored and inspired during and after his tenure as Chair of the Political Science Department of Clark Atlanta University reflect his vision and contributions to the field of political science. They are his magnificent legacy.

My tenure as a faculty member of the Political Science Department began in 1973 when the University was a graduate school that had recently added a Doctoral Degree to the curriculum of the Department chaired by that Dr. Jones. At that time, he was a well-known, well-respected scholar-activist who was committed to creating a quality doctoral program at Atlanta University. He and I crossed paths as undergraduate students at Southern University and were both involved in the establishment of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, but I had not worked closely with him. However, I soon learned that he was a visionary leader who set the tone and framework for a first class department that enabled the recruitment of committed faculty and students in the United States and abroad. He was tireless in his efforts to provide students and faculty with the academic and financial resources and caring environment that inspired scholarly research and dialogue. Dr. Jones fully understood that welcoming faculty and students to departmental planning and weekly seminars promoted participatory learning and practices that inspired both students and faculty to excel.

He succeeded in creating an outstanding community of dedicated, well-informed and caring scholars that are respected and recruited by political science departments, federal agencies and the private sector.

Over the following decades, some of the scholars formed what I call a continuum of participatory learning communities in various universities in the USA and abroad. They also published scholarly works that reflect many aspects of Dr. Jones' vision. At least three of them returned to the source and served as Chair of the Political Science Department after Dr. Jones' retirement. Having served as Acting Chair of the Department a few years after joining the faculty, I know how hard it is to follow in Dr. Jones footsteps.

The current Chair of the Political Science Department is a former student who is working with a committee of former students to keep the vision and community learning practices alive. They contacted former students and faculty members who are proud to honor Dr. Jones's outstanding accomplishments and contributions to generations of scholar-activists, Clark Atlanta University and the discipline of Political Science.

I am delighted to join the colleagues, students, administrators and friends who strongly support renaming the department The Mack Henry Jones Political Science Department of Clark Atlanta University.

I trust that that you and the Board of Directors will approve this effort to honor the amazing work of Dr. Mack Henry Jones.

Respectfully,

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Shelby F. Lewis, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Clark Atlanta University