



April 27, 2021

Dr. George T. French
Office of the President
Clark Atlanta University

Board of Trustees
Clark Atlanta University

Dear President French and Trustees:

Please accept this correspondence as one among many petitioning for the naming of the political science department at Clark Atlanta University in honor of Dr. Mack H. Jones. Reflecting upon my three years under his tutelage at what was then Atlanta University in the mid to latter 1970's as well as my four decades of work in academia, I can think of no one more deserving of such an honor.

Through his many contributions and achievements, Dr. Mack H. Jones has personified what it means to live a life of intellectual pursuit made relevant through the promotion of social justice and human progress. His ideas, research and scholarly writing in the 1970's were pioneering in the development of a theoretical framework for political inquiry grounded in the unique social and historical experience of Black people in the United States and beyond. True to the Black philosophical tradition of combining the search for theory with an emphasis on practical utility, Mack Jones was instrumental in the establishment of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) as a formal vehicle through which to promote inquiry and analysis of political phenomena from the collective experience and perspective of Black people. He would also serve as NCOBPS' first president. Dr. Jones would replicate this national leadership at the institutional level through spearheading the establishment of a Ph.D. program in political science at Atlanta University with the same paradigmatic and curricular emphasis on the Black experience.

From a personal vantage point, I am among the cohort of young scholars over the past several decades who were shaped by Dr. Mack Jones during our graduate study and have subsequently gone forth into the academy, government and the non-profit sector, along with other areas of endeavor to influence the course of events from the community to the national and global levels. Through us and our work product, the spirit and substance of Dr. Mack H. Jones will live on for generations to come.

For one who has had such an enormous footprint, in both the academy and beyond, the naming of the political science department at Clark Atlanta University in his honor would be a fitting gesture of appreciation.

Sincerely yours

Jacob E. Butler, Ph.D.
Academic Dean and Professor of Political Science
Morris College