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April 27th, 2021

President, Dr. George T. French
& Board of Trustees
Clark-Atlanta University
223 James P. Brawley Drive
Atlanta, GA 30314

Dear President French and Trustee Members:

Please accept this missive as a strong recommendation supporting naming the Department of Political Science at Clark-Atlanta University (CAU) after Dr. Mack H. Jones. Dr. Jones (no relations to me) was one of my graduate professors while attending graduate school at CAU. I can say without question that Dr. Jones was one of the most impactful professors who taught me at CAU and is fitting of this honor.

My career as a scholar and administrator has been shaped by my time with Dr. Jones. As a first-year graduate student, I took his African American Political Thought class that focused on W.E.B. Du Bois and was deeply inspired by the class. As such, my master theses focused on Du Bois's political philosophy of education for Black colleges. After receiving my Ph.D. in 2009, I held a postdoc at Harvard University at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. Over the next few years, I held administrative positions while bringing Du Bois's vision for Black colleges to life through my work.

The culmination of my experiences has led me to write a book that I just finished entitled "Black, Not Historically Black: Towards the Pan-Black College," where I draw on Du Bois's critiques and suggestions for how Black Colleges can improve in the coming future. In the preface, I write about how Dr. Jones's class and scholarship influenced my work and how vital the Department of Political Science at CAU was so crucial to my success. This was only evident because Dr. Jones had the vision to create a political science grounded in the experience of Black people. The Department of Political Science continues to engender an intellectual space by challenging its graduates to be actors and not observers of the liberation struggle.

Therefore, it is my pleasure and honor to add my letter to this dossier of scholars and activists supporting naming the Department of Political Science the Mack H. Jones Department of Political Science. He deserves this privilege, and I look forward to returning to the faculty this fall to continue on the legacy that he started some fifty years ago.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph L. Jones'.

Joseph L. Jones, Ph.D.