

## Politicians / Acquisition Decision Makers Letter Template

[Name] \*

Title

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400 Phone  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear [insert Committee Member name],

I am a Mills College alumna of the class of \_\_\_\_\_. I am writing to register my complaint and call for an investigation of the proposed Mills College closure, on the basis of fraud.

The College Administration stated in March 2021 that it is “broke” and needed to close. In September, the acquisition by Northeastern University was announced as a new plan to save the College from closure. However, according to the forensic accounting investigation requested by Attorney General Rob Bonta, and backed up by additional independent studies, the College was never financially insolvent, and in fact, is completely viable.

The 2020-21 College Audit (recently made available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse) shows:

- A positive cash flow
- \$2.3M in debt paid off
- 20% endowment growth (\$49M in investment returns, with nearly \$40M added to the endowment)
- Administrative Spending Up to \$23.6M, exceeding Instruction Spending by \$6.6M

Even more disheartening, the College is defrauding its students.

Last March, the Class of 2023 was promised they would graduate from Mills College, However, in August, the College announced the acquisition timeline, and this date was suddenly moved up. Now the last degrees from Mills will be conferred this Spring of 2022, so many students will not get the diploma they were promised. Also, just a few weeks ago as students returned to campus for the start of the Spring Semester, the College suddenly announced the cancellation of upwards of 22 of Mills' 36 majors,. Due to the lack of accreditation by Northeastern, which the College knew about last fall (see below), . Students were given only one week to make a major life decision: deciding on a new major, or transferring to another school that could serve them.. Other students are being told they will have to go to Boston to complete their Nursing degree, and they may have repeat classes. (This is exhausting for instructors who are already working without a contract.)

The Mills College administration, after failing their duty to keep the school fiscally healthy, then failed to provide a comprehensive teach-out plan for students to transition with minimum of

stress. After a year of distance learning, this additional stress is causing harm to young people, who are fearful and isolated. I am outraged by the failure of the Mills College Board of Trustees, who have breached their duty to care for the students and the legacy of this historic, important, and once-thriving school.

I strongly support and encourage the CA Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education to pursue an investigation of this pending acquisition. CA Attorney Rob Bonta has recused himself from this decision.

\*Personalize Letters and Mail To:

BPPE Committee Members, Appointed Seats

- Katherube Lee-Carey, Chair, Institutional Representative
- Margaret Reiter, Vice Chair, Consumer Advocate
- Diana Amaya, Public Member
- Joseph Holt, Institutional Representative
- Assembly Member Kansen Chu
- Melanie Delgado, Consumer Advocate
- David Vice, Institutional Representative
- Hon. Senator Richard Roth, Ex Officio Member
- Assembly Member Jose Medina, Ex Officio Member:
- Leigh Ferrin, Consumer Advocate

BPPE Bureau Chief

- Deborah Cochrane

Sen. Richard Roth's Office:

- Chief of Staff, Elise Flynn Gyore, [elise.gyore@sen.ca.gov](mailto:elise.gyore@sen.ca.gov) T. 916 651 4031
- Scheduler: Trish Fontana, [trish.fontana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:trish.fontana@sen.ca.gov) T. 916 651 4031