

AUDIT & FINANCIAL TROUBLE

Dear Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education,

I am a Mills College student / alum / friend, and I am writing to register my complaint. I 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 fiscally unstable, 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

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.