

STUDENTS AND TEACH OUT DEBACLE

Dear Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education,

I am a Mills College student / alum / teacher/ friend. I am writing to register my complaint, and call for an investigation of the proposed Mills College closure on the basis of fraud.

I am / Students are being caused harm and undue stress. You can help. I've / They've already been denied the education at a historic women's college I/ they was/were promised when I/they came to Mills. Now I/they am/are being denied the degree(s) I/ they was/were promised when Beth Hillman announced the school's closure and the subsequent acquisition by Northeastern.

At a Town Hall meeting on January 19, 2022, the first day of the Spring Semester, a select group of students learned that the majority of degree programs will not continue under the Northeastern acquisition. Many students found out this news from their classmates because they didn't even get invited to the Town Hall.

Today, we/they are scrambling to transfer to other schools or re-apply to Northeastern's Boston campus to complete their degrees. The entire Masters of Fine Arts division, a true cultural treasure, has been deconstructed. This affects upwards of 70 students. The College had 10 months since it's initial closure announcement to roll out the teachout plan and provide students with "degree pathways." Yet, as of February 14, many of us/them have yet to speak with Northeastern advisors. In the meantime, many transfer deadlines have passed.

Mills' advisors don't have answers either. Some students are learning they may have to spend extra time and extra money to complete their degrees. Time and money many don't have... and time and money none of them should have to lose. But because the College isn't meeting its legal and moral obligations, current Mills students will pay the price, literally.

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.