



FAQ: Why Are We Determined To #StoptheTakeover?

Because There Is No Other College Like Mills.

As the country grapples with deep social division and crisis upon crisis, Mills College simply cannot disappear just as the leaders it develops are most needed—to break barriers, to launch initiatives, to share bold visions for inclusion, to do the hard work. Mills is a Historically Women’s College. It currently serves women, non-binary and trans students at the undergraduate level, and graduate students of all genders.

Additionally, we are fighting for the continuation of Mills as a college which centers those pushed to the margins in society:

- Mills is a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) with 25%+ of undergrads identifying as Hispanic
- 17% of undergrads are resumers or non-traditional students
- 65% of undergrads identify as people of color
- 58% of grad students identify as people of color
- 44% of undergrads are first-gen
- 58% of undergrads identify as LGBTQ+
- The current unrest in the world demonstrates the need for Mills College — a place where we engage across identity groups to build a post pandemic world that is better than our past and the loss of Mills College brings that mission of the socially equitable world further away. The world needs Mills right now.

And Because We Haven’t Seen Any Real Evidence That Mills Is In Financial Peril.

Mills College is financially viable and does not need to close. Its reaccreditation, audit, and public records prove this.

- February 2020, one year before President Hillman’s closure announcement: The WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) reaccredited Mills based on its “sufficient reserves to support operational deficits for several years.”
- January 2021, two months before President Hillman’s closure announcement: Mills College auditors signed off on Mills’ financials with full cooperation from Mills leadership. They noted nothing of immediate concern.
- July 2021, from a financial report requested by CA Attorney General Rob Bonta: Financial and academic governance expert Stefano Falconi reports that Mills has significant assets that—if effectively utilized—can allow it to thrive:

- A substantial endowment (\$205M+)
- Consistently high philanthropic contributions
- Strong and eager support from Mills alumnae/i and the Mills community
- Full WSCUC reaccreditation through 2028
- 135 acres in a highly desirable San Francisco Bay Area location
- Valuable artistic and literary collections that could be tapped in case of emergency
- And more.

All available information indicates that the financial struggles Mills faces are no different than those faced by other small liberal arts colleges during this global pandemic.

And, Suspicious Actions Make Us Wonder...

In June, the College cut off access to the Alumnae database housing the contact information of approximately 26,000 Alumnae. The Alumnae Association is painstakingly rebuilding the database. But communications remain fractionated.

Why Isn't The Board Of Trustees Doing Something?

In short, we don't know. At best, it appears to be a breach of fiduciary duties.

The Board of Trustees have (literally) signed over their power to the President—a President who recently admitted publicly that she suddenly no longer believes in the viability of women's colleges,

*So The Real Question Here Is: Are Women's Colleges Not A Viable Educational Model?
Or Is Our President Not A Viable President?*

What Other Motivations Could Be Behind This?

Recently, a strongly worded queerphobic and racist letter supporting the takeover by Northeastern was sent to our President by a group of Mills alums from the classes of '70 and '71 and circulated widely among alums.

In essence, the letter suggested that the Northeastern takeover of Mills is prudent because Mills has become too queer and too brown & Black for its own good.

Despite the fact that our president is openly gay, she chose not to address the letter publicly, which suggests she is protecting other (financial) interests. Here is an excerpt:

“We applaud the fact that Mills has struggled to fight its own past homophobia. We are concerned that its success has moved it to one of the highest percentages of LGBT attendees among its peers ... Many in our age group have had little direct experience with gender non-conformity, trans people, pronoun declarations, and queer theory. **Members of our group expressed the view that 58% of the entering Mills class identifying as LGBTQ may pose a marketing problem for Mills in the future.**”

Why Litigation Is Not Enough.

Northeastern is a predatory and highly profitable organization that has gobbled up many colleges, leaving a trail of empty shells behind. Northeastern has billions of dollars in assets to be gained financially from this deal. Within a month of the announcement, Northeastern was already running ads recruiting students for the Spring semester at Mills.

Meanwhile, the Alumnae Association of Mills College (AAMC) is funding litigation against the college. But...

We're Running Out Of Time.

On July 1, 2022, Mills College Will Officially Cease To Exist.

In a tragic deal that only benefits Northeastern, Mills will become a shell of an organization, reflecting none of its benefactors' or founder's (Susan Mills) original mission.

Both the Mills President and the Northeastern President are using the same empty and paternalistic corporate speak to describe how great this deal is for Mills "girls," and how much better it will be when the college is "gender inclusive" (aka co-ed).

(REALLY. They keep repeating that term, as if men have been disenfranchised for decades, adding insult to injury.)

Please help us #StoptheTakeover.

We've been working day and night. We have ideas. But we need better and faster ways to spark media attention so we can:

1. Stop the takeover and pressure Governor Newsom and the California AG, Rob Bonta, to initiate a financial investigation.
2. Force the resignation of the current President and Board of Trustees, who have conducted this deal in complete secrecy, knowingly betraying their duties to protect the vision and mission of Mills.
3. Save our historic college, which serves marginalized students and builds the leaders of tomorrow—leaders like Mills alumna, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who released a statement that she was ["heartbroken and outraged"](#) by the decision to close Mills.

Please consider helping us in this fight before it's too late. We're #NotGivingUp.

More info about Mills, the takeover, and current litigation can be found here on our website at: www.All4Mills.com.

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