



Catherine Schneider-Lewis <cschneiderlewis@gmail.com>

A message from the Mills College Club of New York

1 message

Mills College Club of New York <alumnae-relations@mills.edu>

Thu, May 27, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: achannorris@gmail.com

To: cschneiderlewis@gmail.com



Mills College Club of New York

Club Message

Greetings to Mills College alumnae in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut:

We have missed seeing you and are working on a get-together for this coming fall. Please make sure that the Office of Alumnae Relations (alumnae-relations@mills.edu) has your email and postal addresses so that we can reach you.

As you may know, in June 2020, President Beth Hillman and Board of Trustees President Katie Sanborn '83 announced that Mills was negotiating with UC Berkeley to establish a partnership that would be of benefit to both institutions. So everyone—faculty and staff, students, and alumnae—was surprised on March 17 of this year when President Hillman announced that Mills would cease granting degrees in 2023 and would establish a Mills Institute to carry on the College's historic mission. You can read more about what the College envisions [here](#). Over the past month and going into June, the college is conducting small group discussions with alumnae, students, and faculty about what a Mills Institute should focus on. A few of our club members have participated in these sessions.

Many alumnae question the Board of Trustees' decision to go in this direction, especially because the Board of Trustees has disclosed little information about how it reached its decision and what sort of partnerships it has been considering. These alumnae acknowledge that the College has a number of challenges, among which are falling enrollment and declining donations, but they believe there are ways for Mills to address those challenges and remain a degree-granting college.

The AAMC is urging the College's Board of Trustees to pause the decision-making process and provide more information on both the College's finances and its negotiations with UC Berkeley. At [this link](#), you'll find an AAMC page with links to forums where alumnae can share ideas, various AAMC and alumnae documents, a collection of articles in the media, and a chronology dating from June 2020.

In addition, two groups with proposals for how Mills can go forward as a degree-granting institution have sprung up:

[Save Mills College Coalition](#) believes that the College can be stabilized and remain sustainably independent. The group also put together this [9-minute video](#) outlining its plan.

[UC Mills](#) wants to see the College become part of the University of California system but remain a separate entity. Here's a link to its 9-minute video describing its plan, along with a [38-second video](#) of a faculty statement by David Bernstein.

If you would like to read the position papers for Save Mills College Coalition and UC Mills, please write to us at millsclubny@gmail.com and we will send them to you.

Because the AAMC and the Save Mills College Coalition have separate goals and approaches, both have engaged its own legal representation. They welcome donations to help with their legal expenses. If you favor a particular approach, a donation can be a good way to express your solidarity with that group's efforts.

Throughout this transition period the College is still open, with students learning and the faculty teaching. Please support the current students by sending your [gift to the College](#).

Over more than a decade, there have been many efforts by presidents and the Board of Trustees to address the problems of admission and retention rates and straitened finances. The board has determined that the College has run out of time for such efforts and must now find a new way of operating. We look forward to hearing the trustees' response to the options put forth by the groups mentioned above, and hope they can find a path for Mills to step into the future with renewed health and continue the mission it has embraced since its founding in 1852.

Annette Chan-Norris '65
Margot Jones Mabie '66
MCCNY Co-chairs

Email communications from Mills clubs do not necessarily represent official communication from Mills College.

This message was sent to you by Mills College, [Unsubscribe](#)