

MILLS PETITION STATEMENT- FEB 8, 2022

Good Evening-

I speak today to encourage the Mills College Board of Governors to take the concerns of Mills alums at large- not simply those alums on the Board, but including the decisions made by the 450 petition signers plus other alumnae/i/x. Many alums are frustrated and disappointed in AAMC leadership for varied reasons. Critically for me and many others, we don't want our own organization to have a lawsuit against our alma mater *ever again in life*. Besides, I'm convinced that our Mills education has given us considerable critical thinking skills that can and will reveal solutions to our problematic issues, *if* we are committed and dialogue fairly and honestly together.

I speak as a grad alum, a former faculty member, a volunteer on the Reunion Committee, a member of AOCC, and as a former Alum Trustee and former Governor. While I am obviously committed to Mills, I cannot manage the lack of transparency we've receive from our Board of Governors, and I'm saddened by the resulting discord among AAMC members. I'm grateful that the legal battling has apparently ended, but I'm not convinced it will not resume. So, we need *this polled vote in addition to our petition*, in order to point AAMC in the majority-agreed-upon direction and we need to address specifics for going forward.

The Treasurer and the BOG owe us a financial report that fully details an accounting of where AAMC monies have gone and for what remaining funds are presently allocated. We need the complete report from *the forensic auditor that AAMC hired* in our names; that report should be made public and easily accessible for Alums to review.

Additionally, more work is needed to assure those who volunteer at Mills are not viciously attacked in the future. I could have been one of those alums who thought differently and was not simply asked to resign but was cruelly attacked in vicious, organized planning. I could have been one of those who were treated as "disposable pawns" for speaking their truths, as the critical thinkers Mills has trained us all to be. I am appalled, but-- in trying to remain part of the solution not the problem, I look forward to repair initiatives from AAMC for the huge damage that has occurred.

There is too much at stake in developing sound commitment to 1) a viable curriculum, 2) faculty and staff protections, and 3) complementary alliances with new partners. We need to be in on future planning. We cannot afford to exhaust our strengths and energies on such mean-spirited tasks as lawsuits and recalls.

This huge repair job involves transparency, honesty, and empathy as we remember what we have in common- our love for a strong and long-lasting Mills College. Repair starts with a sturdy canvassing of the vote to forever end these lawsuits and a thoroughly detailed AAMC financial accounting.

I believe Melissa, Estrellita and I I have spoken for many alums and not just ourselves. I ask all alums, if you haven't already done so, to ***Please submit your poll answers to AAMC before Feb 22, 2022*** so that AAMC has clear direction for the future. If you don't have a paper poll, please contact AAMC and submit it before FEB 22. Thank you for your attention.

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