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		RE THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS
9		E POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CALIFORNIA
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 997952
13	INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION BINDU BABURAJAN, Owner	
	130 S. Almaden Blvd.	ACCUSATION
14	San Jose, CA 95113 Institution Code No. 69608217	
15	7901 Oakport Street	
16	Oakland, CA 94621 School Code No. 81701347	
17		
18	Respondent.	
19		
20	Complainant alleges:	
21		<u>RTIES</u>
22	1. Joanne Wenzel (Complainant) bring	s this Accusation solely in her official capacity as
23	the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Bureau for Priva	te Postsecondary Education (Bureau),
24	Department of Consumer Affairs.	
25	2. On or about November 1, 2004, the	former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and
26	Vocational Education ¹ (BPPVE) issued a Tempo	orary Approval to Operate the Institute of Medical
27	¹ The former Bureau for Private Postseco	ondary and Vocational Education sunsetted on
28	July 1, 2007. On October 11, 2009, the Private F	Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (AB 48) (continued)
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1	Education, Bindu Baburajan, Owner (Institution Code No. 69608217) (Respondent or Institute).
2	On or about October 27, 2005, BPPVE issued a Full Approval to Operate the Institute.
3	3. On or about February 8, 2005, BPPVE issued an Approval to Operate a Phlebotomy
1	program and an EKG Technician program at the Institute.
5	4. On or about May 16, 2006, BPPVE issued an Approval to Operate a Vocational
5	Nursing program at the Institute.
7	5. On or about March 22, 2007, BPPVE issued a Full Approval to Operate a satellite
3	location at the Institute located at 2235 Polvorosa Avenue, Suite 200, San Leandro, CA 94577
	(School Code No. 81701347). On this same date, BPPVE issued an Approval to Operate a
)	Physical Therapy Aide program and a Nursing Assistant program at the Institute.
1	6. On or about April 11, 2007, BPPVE issued an Approval to Operate a Medical
2	Assistant program at the Institute.
3	7. On or about May 7, 2010, the Bureau issued an Approval to Operate an Associate of
1	Science in Nursing degree and an Associate of Arts in Dental Hygiene degree at the Institute.
5	8. On or about May 11, 2010, the Bureau issued an Approval to Operate an Associate o
6	Applied Science in Physical Therapy degree at the Institute.
7	JURISDICTION
3	9. This Accusation is brought before the Bureau under the authority of the following
	laws. All section references are to the Education Code unless otherwise indicated.
)	10. Business and Professions Code section 118, subdivision (b) provides that the
	suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive a board of
2	jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may
;	be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated.
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7 8	was signed into law. The Act, which became operative on January 1, 2010, established the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
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1	STATUTORY PROVISIONS
2	11. Section 94813 states: " 'Accredited' means an institution is recognized or approved
3	by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education."
4	12. Section 94814 states: " 'Accrediting agency' is an agency recognized by the United
5	States Department of Education."
6	13. Section 94836 states: "'Educational materials' means textbooks, supplies,
7	implements, tools, machinery, computers, electronic devices, or other goods related to any
8	education, training, or experience required for participation in an educational program."
9	14. Section 94862 states: " 'Satellite location' means an auxiliary classroom or teaching
10	site within 50 miles of the branch or main location."
11	15. Section 94893 states: "If an institution intends to make a substantive change to its
12	approval to operate, the institution shall receive prior authorization from the bureau. Except as
13	provided in subdivision (a) of Section 94896, if the institution makes the substantive change
14	without prior bureau authorization, the institution's approval to operate may be suspended or
15	revoked."
16	16. Section 94894 provides in pertinent part:
17	"The following changes to an approval to operate are considered substantive changes and
18	require prior authorization:
19	"(a) A change in educational objectives, including an addition of a new diploma or a degree
20	educational program unrelated to the approved educational programs offered by the institution."
21.	17. Section 94897 provides in pertinent part:
22	"An institution shall not do any of the following:
23	••••
24	"(e) Advertise, or indicate in promotional material, that the institution is accredited, unless
25	the institution has been accredited by an accrediting agency."
26	18. Section 94927 states:
27	"An institution shall be considered in default of the enrollment agreement when an
28	educational program is discontinued or canceled or the institution closes prior to completion of
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	ACCUSATION

1	the educational program. When an institution is in default, student institutional charges may be
2	refunded on a pro rata basis if the bureau determines that the school has made provision for
3	students enrolled at the time of default to complete a comparable educational program at another
4	institution at no additional charge to the students beyond the amount of the total charges in the
5	original enrollment agreement. If the institution does not make that provision, a total refund of all
6	institutional charges shall be made to students."
7	19. Section 94930.5 provides in pertinent part:
8	"An institution shall remit to the bureau for deposit in the Private Postsecondary Education
9	Administration Fund the following fees, in accordance with the following schedule:
10	••••
11	"(d)(1) In addition to any fees paid to the bureau pursuant to subdivisions (a) to (c),
12	inclusive, each institution that is approved to operate pursuant to this chapter shall remit both of
13	the following:
14	"(A) An annual institutional fee, in an amount equal to three-quarters of 1 percent of the
15	institution's annual revenues derived from students in California, but not exceeding a total of
16	twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) annually.
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18	20. Section 94937 provides in pertinent part:
19	"(a) As a consequence of an investigation, and upon a finding that an institution has
20	committed a violation, the bureau may place an institution on probation or may suspend or revoke
21	an institution's approval to operate for:
22	••••
23	"(2) A material violation or repeated violations of this chapter or regulations adopted
24	pursuant to this chapter that have resulted in harm to students. For purposes of this paragraph,
25	'material violation' includes, but is not limited to, misrepresentation, fraud in the inducement of a
26	contract, and false or misleading claims or advertising, upon which a student reasonably relied in
27	executing an enrollment agreement and that resulted in harm to the student."
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1	21. Section 94941, subdivision (d) states: "If the bureau finds that an institution's
2	violation of this chapter has caused damage or loss to a student or group of students, the bureau
3	shall order the institution to provide appropriate restitution to that student or group of students."
4	22. Business and Professions Code section 477 states:
5	"As used in this division:
6	"(a) 'Board' includes 'bureau,' 'commission,' 'committee,' 'department,' 'division,'
7	'examining committee,' 'program,' and 'agency.'
8	"(b) 'License' includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a business or
9	profession regulated by this code."
10	23. Business and Professions Code section 480 provides in pertinent part:
11	"(a) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant
12	has one of the following:
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14	"(2) Done any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit with the intent to substantially
15	benefit himself or herself or another, or substantially injure another."
16	REGULATORY PROVISIONS
17	24. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71717, subdivision (b) provides: "[An]
18	institution shall not maintain any permanent student records [at a satellite location]."
19	25. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71720 provides in relevant part:
20	"(a) An Educational Program Leading to a Degree.
21	"(1) An institution offering an educational program that leads to a degree shall employ duly
22	qualified faculty sufficient in number to provide the instruction, student advisement, and learning
23	outcomes evaluation necessary for the institution to document its achievement of its stated
24	mission and objectives, and for students to achieve the specific learning objectives of each course
25	offered "
26	26. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71730, subdivision (f) states: "The
27	institution shall employ administrative personnel who have the expertise to ensure the
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1	achievement of the institution's mission and objectives and the operation of the educational
2	programs."
3	27. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71745 provides in relevant part:
4	"(a) The institution shall document that it has at all times sufficient assets and financial
5	resources to do all of the following:
6	"(1) Provide all of the educational programs that the institution represented it would
7	provide.
8	"(2) Ensure that all students admitted to its educational programs have a reasonable
9	opportunity to complete the programs and obtain their degrees or diplomas.
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11	"(6) [F]or an institution participating in Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of
12	1965, meet the composite score requirements of the U.S. Department of Education "
13	28. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71920, subdivision (a) states: "The
14	institution shall maintain a file for each student who enrolls in the institution whether or not the
15	student completes the educational service."
16	29. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71930, subdivision (e) states: "All
17	records that the institution is required to maintain by the Act or this chapter shall be made
18	immediately available by the institution for inspection and copying during normal business hours
19	by the Bureau and any entity authorized to conduct investigations."
20	30. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 74000 provides in relevant part:
21	"(a) An institution shall pay the fees established by Article 17 of the Act
22	•••
23	"(e)(1) If an institution fails to pay any fee and any penalty fees timely, the Bureau may
24	initiate proceedings to revoke the institution's approval to operate for failure to pay fees."
25	31. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 74200 states: "Every institution shall
26	notify the Bureau in writing at least 30 days before the institution ceases to offer to the public any
27	educational program."
28	32. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 75100 provides in relevant part:
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"(a) The Bureau may suspend, revoke or place on probation with terms and conditions an
 approval to operate.

"(b) 'Material violation' as used in section 94937 of the Code includes committing any act that would be grounds for denial under section 480 of the Business and Professions Code."

33. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 76120, subdivision (a) provides in
relevant part: "Each qualifying institution shall collect an assessment of two dollars and fifty
cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of institutional charges, rounded to the nearest
thousand dollars, from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or is
enrolled in a residency program...."

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34. California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 76130 provides in relevant part:

"(a) A qualifying institution shall collect the [Student Tuition Recovery Fund] assessment
from each student in an educational program at the time it collects the first payment from or on
behalf of the student at or after enrollment. The assessment shall be collected for the entire
period of enrollment, regardless of whether the student pays the institutional charges in
increments.

"(b) A qualifying institution shall complete the STRF Assessment Reporting Form (Rev.
2/10) and remit it with the STRF assessments collected from students to be received by the
Bureau no later than the last day of the month following the close of the quarter as follows"

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COSTS

35. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 provides that a board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

36. Section 94937, subdivision (c) states: "The bureau may seek reimbursement pursuant to Section 125.3 of the Business and Professions Code."

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1	FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(Unauthorized Substantive Change to Approval to Operate)
3	37. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code sections 94893,
4	94894, subdivision (a), and 94937, subdivision (a)(2), and California Code of Regulations, title 5,
5	section 75100, subdivisions (a) and (b) in that the Institute added programs in MRI Technology
7	and Ultrasound Technology without obtaining prior authorization from the Bureau. The MRI
8	Technology and Ultrasound Technology programs are unrelated to the approved educational
9	programs offered by the Institute. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances
10	of Respondent's conduct are as follows:
11	38. On its website, the Institute advertises that it offers programs in "MRI Technology"
12 13	and "Ultrasound Technology".
13	39. The Institute's "2010-2011 Catalog & Student Handbook" states that the Institute
15	offers programs in MRI Technology and Ultrasound Technology.
16	40. The Institute enrolled students in its MRI Technology program in 2008, 2009, 2010,
17	2011, and 2012. The Institute enrolled students in its Ultrasound Technology program in 2009,
18	2010, and 2011. On or about October 27, 2011, Sunil Vethody (Sunil), the Institute's Chief
19 20	Executive Officer, informed an investigator from the Division of Investigation that prospective
20	students had registered for the next MRI Technology and Ultrasound Technology courses, and
22	that these courses were scheduled to begin soon.
23	41. Neither BPPVE nor the Bureau has ever issued the Institute an approval to operate
24	either an MRI Technology program or an Ultrasound Technology (Diagnostic Medical
25	Sonography) program.
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1	SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(False Advertising of Accreditation)
3	42. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code sections 94813,
4	94814, 94897, subdivision (e), and 94937, subdivision (a)(2), and California Code of Regulations,
5	title 5, section 75100, subdivisions (a) and (b) in that the Institute advertised on its website that it
6	was accredited at a time when it was not accredited by an accrediting agency. This conduct
7	resulted in harm to students. The circumstances of Respondent's conduct are as follows:
o 9	43. As an institution the Institute is, and at all times pertinent to this Accusation has been,
10	accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for
11	Schools (WASC-ACS). As an institution the Institute is not, nor at any time pertinent to this
12	Accusation was it, accredited by any other accrediting commission, association, agency, or
13	organization.
14	44. As of October 26, 2010, WASC-ACS ceased to be recognized by the United States
15 16	Department of Education (USDOE). As a result, WASC-ACS has not been an "accrediting
10	agency" for purposes of section 94814 since that date. Consequently, the Institute has not been
18	"accredited" for purposes of section 94813 since October 26, 2010. Nonetheless, since October
19	26, 2010, the Institute represented to enrolled and prospective students that it is accredited.
20	45. The Institute maintains a website. The website contains an "Accreditations" tab. The
21	top portion of the "Accreditations" section of the website contains a check mark with the word
22	"ACCREDITATIONS" next to it. Beneath this word the website states the following: "The
23 24	Institute of Medical Education is approved and accredited by the following: Western Association
24	of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accrediting Commission of Schools and Colleges:
26	http://www.acswasc.org/"
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1	46. The Institute has enrolled numerous students in several of its educational programs
2	since October 26, 2010.
3	47. On or about January 17, 2012, Bindu Vethody (Bindu), the Institute's Chief Financial
4	Officer, wrote a letter to USDOE in which she stated the following:
5	a. "With the withdrawal of our accreditation from WASC (or withdrawal of WASC
6	approval from [USDOE]), we could not start (not allowed by the respective Board) any classes
7	for Associate Degree in Nursing, and forced to cancel our Medical lab Technician program. We
8 9	are also given a notice to withdraw our approval of our Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene by
10	[the Commission on Dental Accreditation]. There are already students who are ready to graduate
11	in 4 months."
12	b. "Being an unaccredited school, we have started to see our enrollment and the
13	corresponding revenue slashed by 50% of the original revenue (before the withdrawal of
14	WASC)."
15	c. "Thirdly and most importantly, the current students are going to graduate from a
16 17	non-accredited school. This is not something they signed up for."
18	THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
19	(Defaulting on Enrollment Agreement)
20	48. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code sections 94927 and
21	94937, subdivision (a)(2), and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 75100, subdivision
22	(a) in that the Institute discontinued or canceled its Dental Hygiene program as to its junior class
23 24	prior to completion of the program. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The
24	circumstances of Respondent's conduct are as follows:
26	49. On or about February 3, 2012, Sunil sent a letter to the Institute's Dental Hygiene
27	program students in which he stated the following: "In light of the recent change in accreditation
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1	status, IME is no longer financially viable. As a result, we are sorry to inform you of the change
2	to the IME Dental Hygiene Program. This letter serves as notice that the Institute of Medical
3	Education Dental Hygiene program will be closing on February 03, 2012."
4	50. On or about February 6, 2012, Sunil sent a follow-up letter to the Institute's Dental
5	Hygiene program students in which he stated the following: "To clarify, the letter dated on
6	February 3, 2012, regarding the closure of the Dental Hygiene program at IME, pertains to only
7 8	the Junior Class of 2013 (Batch 2). However, the Senior Class of 2012 (Batch 1), will continue
9	classes and clinic until graduation, with the expected date being the 15th of March, 2012."
10	FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
11	(Maintenance of Permanent Student Records at Satellite Location)
12	51. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
13	subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 71717, subdivision (b) and
14	75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute maintained permanent student records at its satellite
15	location in Oakland, California. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances of
16 17	Respondent's conduct are as follows:
18	52. During a meeting with an investigator from the Division of Investigation on or about
19	October 27, 2011, Sunil disclosed that all student records for students enrolled at the Institute's
20	Oakland campus are stored at the Institute's Oakland campus. Sunil acknowledged that storing
21	student records at a satellite location is "a violation."
22	FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
23 - 24	(Failure to Employ Sufficient Number of Qualified Faculty)
25	53. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
26	subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 71720, subdivision (a)(1)
27	and 75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute failed to employ qualified faculty in its Dental
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1	Hygiene program sufficient in number to provide the instruction, student advisement, and
2	learning outcomes evaluation necessary for the Institute to document its achievement of its stated
3	mission and objectives, and for Dental Hygiene program students to achieve the specific learning
4	objectives of the courses offered. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances
5	of Respondent's conduct are as follows:
6	54. The Institute has failed to provide adequate educational materials for the students
7	enrolled in its Dental Hygiene program. As a result, several of the program's instructors have left
8	the Institute.
10	55. The Institute does not have a sufficient number of instructors for its Dental Hygiene
11	program. As a result, many Dental Hygiene classes have been canceled. Those instructors that
12	do teach courses in the Dental Hygiene program lack the specialization and teaching experience
13	necessary to provide the program's students with adequate instruction.
14	56. The Institute has failed to provide students enrolled in its Dental Hygiene program
15 16	sufficient clinical time with patients, which is a required part of the program. As a result, these
10	students have been forced to pay for their own family members to come into the Institute's Dental
18	Hygiene clinic so that the students can use them as patients.
19	57. On or about October 27, 2011, Sunil met with an investigator from the Division of
20	Investigation. During that meeting, Sunil told the investigator the following:
21	a. The Institute had been without a school director for the past month.
22	b. The Institute had been without a Dental Hygiene program director for one week.
23 24	c. In September 2011, some of the instructors in the Dental Hygiene program quit
24	because of their concerns with the Institute's accreditation issues.
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	SIVTH CAUSE FOD DISCIPLINE
1	SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(Failure to Employ Sufficient Administrative Personnel)
3	58. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
4	subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 71730, subdivision (f) and
5	75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute failed to employ sufficient administrative personnel to
6	adequately service the Institute's students. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The
7	circumstances of Respondent's conduct are as follows:
8	59. In her January 17, 2012, letter to USDOE, Bindu stated the following:
10	a. "I know that there are several Federal regulations to meet but I really want you to
11	know that ours is a unique situation here and our lack of trained personnel to administer [financial
12	aid] has occurred due to no fault of ours."
13	b. "Our employee turnover in the last 12 months has been very high and most of the
14	trained staff in the financial aid department did leave or got terminated."
15 16	60. In 2011 and 2012 the Institute experienced a high rate of turnover of administrative
10	personnel.
18	SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
19	(Failure to Document Sufficient Assets and Financial Resources)
20	61. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
21	subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 71745, subdivision (a) and
22	75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute failed to document that it has sufficient assets and
23	financial resources to do the following: (1) provide all of the educational programs that the
24 25	Institute represented it would provide; (2) ensure that all students admitted to its educational
23 26	programs have a reasonable opportunity to complete the programs and obtain their degrees or
27	diplomas; and (3) meet the composite score requirements of the United States Department of
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1	Education. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances of Respondent's
2	conduct are as follows:
3	62. On or about May 14, 2011, Martina Fernandez-Rosario, an employee with USDOE,
4	wrote a letter to Bindu stating the following:
5	a. As of October 26, 2010, WASC-ACS, which is the Institute's primary accreditor,
6	is no longer a nationally recognized accrediting agency.
7	b. Since the Institute is no longer accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting
8	agency, the Institute no longer qualifies as an "eligible institution" for purposes of participation in
10	federal financial aid programs.
11	63. On or about November 2, 2011, Patricia Dickerson, an employee with USDOE, wrote
12	a letter to Bindu stating the following:
13	a. A team from USDOE completed a review of audited financial statements from the
14	Institute for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2010.
15	b. In assessing the Institute's financial strength, a USDOE financial analyst reviewed
16 17	the financial statements using the indicators set forth in 34 Code of Federal Regulations section
18	668.171.
19	c. The Institute's financial statements yielded a composite score of 0.7 out of a
20	possible 3.0. "A minimum score of 1.5 is necessary to meet the requirement of the financial
21	standards. Accordingly, IME fails to meet the standards of financial responsibility as described in
22	34 C.F.R. § 668.172, Financial Ratios."
23 24	64. On or about January 19, 2012, Martina Fernandez-Rosario wrote a letter to Bindu
25	stating the following:
26	a. USDOE transferred the Institute "from the Advance method of payment to the
27	Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2) method of payment effective January 12, 2012."
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b. USDOE instituted this change "because as of October 26, 2010 IME was no longer accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for purposes of participation in the Title IV financial aid programs."

c. The Institute is allowed to continue to participate in the financial aid programs
under provisional certification for a period of 18 months until April 26, 2012, by which time the
Institute must have secured accreditation from a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

d. "[A] program review initiated at IME on January 11, 2012, indicates that IME has
not fulfilled its fiduciary responsibilities in administering the Title IV programs. In particular,
IME has unsubstantiated cash draws and unreconciled records for Title IV expenditures. As a
fiduciary of Federal funds, IME is required to reconcile expenditures on a monthly basis, and
must have records readily available that unquestionably support all Title IV drawdowns and
disbursements to students. The review team found that IME did not have such records available
for the team's review."

65. In her January 17, 2012, letter to USDOE, Bindu stated the following:

a. USDOE's placement of the Institute on the HCM2 method of payment "is going to
affect us terribly."

b. "As a result of [our] expansion plan, we have signed leases for 30+K square
footage of space for [certain] programs and our rent went up to \$70k (extra space not being used)
which is just draining out of our current revenue."

c. "[W]e have started to see our enrollment and the corresponding revenue slashed by
50% of the original revenue (before the withdrawal of WASC). I am sure you have the resources
to verify the reduction in our student community who have applied for financial aid in the last 6
months."

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1	d. "[1]t is very crucial and critical that US DOE allow us to draw down the funds for
2	the current student on a HCM1 basis. We cannot move forward in HCM II as we do not have
3	current capability to wait for a month to get the funds as well as to advance the student the money
4	before we get paid from US DOE. In the event that US DOE freezes this account till we finish
5	our reconciliation, we will have no choice but to close our doors to 380+ students as well to 90+
6	employees of ours. We are really concerned about our student community"
7	66. On or about January 30, 2012, Sunil sent a letter to the Institute's students in which
8 9	he stated the following: "It has come to my attention that the default rate for student tuition is
10	alarmingly high. Please understand that IME is not a financing agency in any manner and cannot
11	afford to have a high default rate from tuition payment Failure to pay tuition by the 5th of
12	each month will put our institution in a great financial difficulty."
13	67. On or about February 3, 2012, Sunil sent a letter to the Institute's Dental Hygiene
14	program students in which he stated the following: "In light of the recent change in accreditation
15 16	status, IME is no longer financially viable. As a result, we are sorry to inform you of the change
17	to the IME Dental Hygiene Program. This letter serves as notice that the Institute of Medical
18	Education Dental Hygiene program will be closing on February 03, 2012."
19	68. On or about February 6, 2012, Sunil sent a follow-up letter to the Institute's Dental
20	Hygiene program students in which he stated the following: "To clarify, the letter dated on
21	February 3, 2012, regarding the closure of the Dental Hygiene program at IME, pertains to only
22	the Junior Class of 2013 (Batch 2). However, the Senior Class of 2012 (Batch 1), will continue
23 24	classes and clinic until graduation, with the expected date being the 15th of March, 2012."
24	69. Effective February 7, 2012, the Institute lost its eligibility to participate in the Title IV
26	federal financial aid programs due to its voluntary relinquishment of its participation in the
27	programs.
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1	EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(Failure to Make Records Available for Inspection and Copying)
3	70. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
4	subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 71920, subdivision (a),
5	71930, subdivision (e), and 75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute failed to make student
6	records available for inspection and copying by a Bureau representative and an investigator from
7	the Division of Investigation. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances of
8	Respondent's conduct are as follows:
10	71. On or about December 7, 2011, Sunil met with an investigator from the Division of
11	Investigation and a Bureau enforcement analyst. During this meeting, the investigator asked to
12	inspect student records. Sunil informed the investigator that the student records were available
13	but he refused to release them unless the investigator or the enforcement analyst agreed in writing
14	that the Institute was exempt from Bureau regulation during a specific time period. Sunil did not
15	allow the investigator or the enforcement analyst to review the requested student records.
16 17	NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
18	(Failure to Pay Annual Institutional Fee)
19	72. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94930.5,
20	subdivision (d)(1)(A) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 74000, subdivisions (a)
21	and (e)(1), and 75100, subdivision (a) in that the Institute (1) failed to remit the correct annual fee
22	to the Bureau for 2010 and (2) failed to remit the required annual fee to the Bureau for 2011.
23	This conduct resulted in harm to students.
24 25	TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
25	(Failure to Collect and Remit Student Tuition Recovery Fund Assessments)
27	73. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937,
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subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 76120, subdivision (a), 1 76130, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 75100, subdivision (a) in that in 2010 and 2011 the Institute 2 failed to collect Student Tuition Recovery Fund assessments from its students and remit those 3 4 assessments to the Bureau. This conduct resulted in harm to students. 5 **ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE** 6 (Failure to Notify Bureau of Educational Program Closure) 7 74. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Education Code section 94937, 8 subdivision (a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, sections 74200 and 75100, 9 subdivision (a) in that the Institute failed to notify the Bureau in writing before closing its Dental 10 Hygiene program. This conduct resulted in harm to students. The circumstances of Respondent's 11 12 conduct are as follows: 13 On or about February 3, 2012, Sunil sent a letter to the Institute's Dental Hygiene 75. 14 program students in which he stated the following: "In light of the recent change in accreditation 15 status, IME is no longer financially viable. As a result, we are sorry to inform you of the change 16 to the IME Dental Hygiene Program. This letter serves as notice that the Institute of Medical 17 Education Dental Hygiene program will be closing on February 03, 2012." 18 19 76. On or about February 6, 2012, Sunil sent a follow-up letter to the Institute's Dental 20 Hygiene program students in which he stated the following: "To clarify, the letter dated on 21 February 3, 2012, regarding the closure of the Dental Hygiene program at IME, pertains to only 22 the Junior Class of 2013 (Batch 2). However, the Senior Class of 2012 (Batch 1), will continue 23 classes and clinic until graduation, with the expected date being the 15th of March, 2012." 24 At no point before February 3, 2012, did the Institute notify the Bureau in writing that 77. 25 it would be closing its Dental Hygiene program. 26 27 111 28

1	PRAYER
2	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
3	and that following the hearing, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs issue a
4	decision:
5	1. Revoking or suspending the Approval to Operate the Institute of Medical Education,
6	Bindu Baburajan, Owner (Institution Code No. 69608217 and School Code No. 81701347)
7	(Respondent);
8	2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Bureau the reasonable costs of the investigation and
9	
10	enforcement of this case pursuant to Education Code section 94937, subdivision (c) and Business
11	and Professions Code section 125.3;
12	3. Ordering Respondent to provide appropriate restitution to its students and former
13	students;
14	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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17	DATED: 223/12 JOANNE WENZEL
18	Deputy Bureau Chief Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
19 20	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California Complainant
20	Complainant
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	ACCUSATION