June 2013

Dear Colleagues,

At Wellesley College, we are proud of the rigor and breadth of our liberal arts curriculum and of our highly accomplished and motivated students, students whose academic records reflect their willingness to challenge themselves intellectually and to produce first-rate work in a demanding course of study.

In 2004, in response to widespread national concern about grade inflation, the Wellesley College faculty made a commitment to hold all introductory and intermediate-level courses with 10 or more students to an average grade of no more than a B+ (3.33). By holding both students and faculty to high standards, and by pushing back against the national trend, we believe we are restoring value to grades as an indicator of academic performance. This policy was instituted to provide exceptional young women with an educational environment in which their work is evaluated with the honesty and rigor it deserves.

In sending you her transcript, a Wellesley student is presenting credentials that may well be compared to those from institutions with less rigorous grading practices—and standards—than ours. To the extent that such indicators as GPA or individual course grades are a part of your decision-making process, we hope that you will view her record in light of our policy and our commitment to evaluative integrity.

Further detail about Wellesley’s grading policy is available at http://www.wellesley.edu/registrar/grading/grading_policy

Please direct inquiries regarding our grading policy to Richard French, Dean of Academic Affairs (rfrench@wellesley.edu).

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Shennan
Provost and Dean of the College
Professor of History