Throughout its history, Wellesley College has celebrated Henry Fowle Durant’s “revolutionary” claim that if “women can do the work. I give them the chance.” Those guiding words have supported generations of women in expanding conventional gender expectations through the liberal arts education that we provide. In this sense, we are committed to the College’s historic mission as a women’s college.

We also affirm that historic notions of gender have changed and that the traditional gender binary does not recognize, nor respect, the lives of many people. We believe, and have taught for more than three decades, that an expanded conception of “women” enriches the intellectual and social development of all of Wellesley students and the wider Wellesley community. We therefore support the admission of self-identified women, and persons assigned female at birth that identify as gender non-conforming, to Wellesley College.

The College’s values statement reads (in part), “Wellesley College believes in...Valuing Diversity. There is no greater benefit to one’s intellectual and social development—and to the vitality of an academic community—than the forthright engagement with and exploration of unfamiliar viewpoints and experiences. Wellesley encourages students to try on new ideas, try out new courses of action, and interact authentically with others whose beliefs or choices challenge their own.”

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department supports this values statement and understands gender exploration as a part of one’s intellectual and social development at the College. We therefore honor the gender identity and expression of all Wellesley College students, and support the successful education and graduation of all matriculated students, regardless of gender identity or expression.

Signed.
Rosanna Hertz, Class of 1919 – 50th Reunion Professor of Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies and Department Chair
Susan Reverby, Marion Butler McLean Professor in the History of Ideas; Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies
Elena Creef, Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies
Charlene A. Galarneau, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies
Jennifer Musto, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies
Nancy L. Marshall, Adjunct Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies
Maria Dulce F. Natividad, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Women’s and Gender Studies

*Irene Mata, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, has recused herself because of her role on the PACGW Committee