Adele Simmons’ interest in higher education administration began when she was a student at Radcliffe and a protégé of its president, Mary Bunting. After getting her D. Phil from Oxford in African history and covering North Africa for the *Economist* for two years, she returned to Cambridge and accepted a job as Assistant Dean of Jackson College and Assistant professor at Tufts University. The women’s movement had begun and Jackson College students were in effect Tufts students. When the Dean resigned, Tufts asked Adele to become Dean of Jackson College, as the administration thought having a very young dean would give them flexibility as they considered the future of Jackson College within Tufts. (Adele was 28 at the time) From Tufts she moved to Princeton as the first woman senior officer. She also was one of the first women to be elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers and served as Chairman of the Board of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. After five years at Princeton she became President of Hampshire College, and in 1989 President of the MacArthur Foundation.

Image courtesy of Adele Simmons