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St. John's University Committee
of the UBCCC 1948-1951

MINUTES OF MEETING

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

10:30 a.m., Friday, September 10, 1948

Room 903, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, Chairman

*Mr. Beverly D. Causey, Jr.
*Mr. J. Earl Fowler
*Dr. Lewis B. Franklin
*Mrs. William H. Hannah
Mrs. Bedell H. Harned
*Dr. Virginia D. Harrington

Very Rev. Arthur C. Lichtenberger
Mr. E. Townsend Look
Rt. Rev. Theodore R. Ludlow
Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce
Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
*Miss Helen Turnbull

Guests

*Rt. Rev. William P. Roberts

*Dr. J. C. McCracken

Staff

*Mr. Charles H. Corbett
*Mr. C. A. Evans

*Dr. Robert J. McMullen
*Dr. Gerald F. Winfield

OPENING OF MEETING

In the absence of the Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, who was appointed Chairman of the St. John's University Committee by the United Board at the last Annual Meeting, Dr. Lewis B. Franklin was elected to serve as temporary Chairman. Dr. Robert J. McMullen led in prayer.

Those whose names are starred in the above list were present.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

Dr. McMullen made a statement explaining the background of the United Board and its functions in relation to St. John's University.

He referred to the fact that each of the Christian Colleges in China previously had in America a Board of Trustees (or Board of Founders), and that these Boards had formed an organization called "The Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China," which met from time to time for consultation and mutual aid, leaving final decisions to the individual Trustee Boards.

There was a growing feeling, however, that there would be a gain in efficiency of operation as well as a decided advantage when financial appeals were made to the American public, if there were a more closely knit organization. The result was the United Board for Christian Colleges

in China, formed in 1945 and taking over the functions of the Associated Boards on July 1, 1947.

In the United Board the number of representatives of each constituent missionary society is determined by the amount of financial support contributed in cash and personnel to the work in China. Instead of the former Boards of Trustees of the separate universities the United Board has appointed University Committees to which are delegated many of the powers previously exercised by the Trustees. Final decisions on certain matters are made only by the United Board including all appropriations of more than \$1,000.

Dr. Franklin supplemented this statement by pointing out that each institution has a Board of Directors in China which is responsible for discipline, curriculum and so forth. Money raised jointly for all the Colleges by the United Board is sent to China for distributing according to ratios determined by the United Board after a careful analysis of the relative needs.

HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARD UNION IN EDUCATION

Dr. McMullen then traced the growth of the movement toward union in higher education in China. He said that originally there were between 40 - 50 Christian Colleges but it was found impossible to support so many. Some were closed. Several were amalgamated resulting in five outstanding union institutions: Yenching, Nanking, Cheeloo, Fukien and West China. When the Burton Commission went to China twenty-six years ago to make a survey of Christian education it recommended that a union university for Central China be formed by the amalgamation of colleges in that area, and this later resulted in the institution known as Hua Chung.

The Burton Commission also recommended the federating of the four institutions in East China. Plans of federation have been seriously considered ever since. Federation did not seem the wisest plan of cooperation.

Shortly after the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, these four institutions came together in the International Settlement of Shanghai and conducted their classes in a building known as the Continental Emporium. Each maintained its identity but there was a large degree of cooperation. Yet they discovered that cooperation was difficult to carry out successfully unless there was a unified budget.

During the war three groups were formed to consider postwar plans:- The Planning Committee of the Associated Boards, meeting in New York, the Planning Committee of British China Christian Universities Association, meeting in London, and the Planning Commission of the Council on Higher Education meeting in China. All these groups came to the conclusion that in Shanghai, a city which is the counterpart of New York City, Christian education could measure up to its opportunities only by forming what the American Committee called "a unified Christian University in East China."

The recommendations of the Planning Commission in China were the strongest and are worth quoting:

"In view of the great political and economic importance of Shanghai and its environs, the high and ancient culture of the Wu area, and the record of the institutions concerned and of their alumni, we are convinced that there is the opportunity of building in Shanghai one of the strongest educational institutions in China. This would be the result of the closest cooperation among Hangchow, St. John's, Shanghai, and Soochow Universities.

"We do not believe that a loose federation, particularly one with junior colleges in four places, will work. Instead, we regard as essential some form of administrative union under which there will be sufficient sacrifice of individual sovereignty to insure the university's functioning as one institution rather than as four units. While recognizing the strength of denominations and of their desires we feel to maintain separate institutions would be to sacrifice the greater for the lesser.

"In the judgment of the Commission, the best thing under the circumstances would be the establishment of an East China Union University with several colleges and professional schools all under one administration and either on one campus or in such proximity that there can be efficient sharing of facilities and a strong sense of unity. The names of the component institutions could be preserved in the names of the colleges composing the university."

When the recommendations of the three planning groups were referred to the institutions concerned, the University of Shanghai decided to stay out for the time being but the Boards of Directors of the other three institutions voted for union -- "one university, one campus, one administration and one budget" -- and appointed their own Planning Committee to work out details if such a union institution is consummated.

The proposed basis of union provides that the participating missionary societies appropriate \$60,000 a year for the running expenses, in addition to personnel. The United Board has allocated 23% of its undesignated funds as the East China Union University share. This should bring the total subsidy for the University up to \$100,000 per year. For the last three years the United Board has been planning to raise \$7,000,00 for capital expenditures, a major fraction of which is to be earmarked for East China.

At this point it was announced that Mr. Henry Luce, who had intended to come to the meeting to talk over plans for promotion, had telephoned that he was unavoidably detained but that he was just as much interested as ever and that he hoped that, when more favorable conditions prevailed, the campaign for \$7,000,000 could be carried through.

Dr. Franklin made a supplementary statement referring to the resolution passed by the National Council of the Episcopal Church, formerly the American Board of Trustees for St. John's. They expressed the hope that the Chinese Board of Directors would approve union. Both Hangchow and Soochow have approved this union. According to this plan each institution is to be responsible for two colleges; Hangchow, Commerce and Engineering; Soochow, Law and Science; St. John's, Arts and Medicine. These together form one university with one administration and one budget

and campus. They have joint entrance examinations. The members of the Board of Directors of East China have already been appointed.

STATEMENT BY THE RT. REV. WILLIAM P. ROBERTS, BISHOP OF SHANGHAI

Bishop Roberts described the trouble occurring last May. The administration was lax in dealing with the student strikes and thus the institution became completely disrupted and had to close early, opening only to give examinations before the summer vacation. At present the institution is without a president. An attempt is being made to eliminate twenty students known to be Communists. The sentiment of the faculty at St. John's is that union is a fine thing to work towards sometime in the future. Lowering of educational standards and difficulties in enforcing discipline direct results of the preliminary steps towards union. Bishop Roberts said that he favored a plan which would unite the institutions at the professional levels only.

DISCUSSION ON EAST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Dr. Franklin explained that the increase in enrollments creates a difficult problem. In order to obtain fees universities admit many more students than formerly, which has lowered standards. The union university would have fewer but a higher quality of students. If St. John's decides not to join the union, Hangchow and Soochow may unite in Shanghai.

It was pointed out that St. John's enrollment had reached its peak before the union plan had been proposed. This rather than union had been the cause of lowering of standards--war experiences rather than union had cooled the enthusiasm of alumni. Student problems at St. John's had not been so persistent as in other Christian Colleges where no union plan had been proposed.

Dr. McCracken, using the example of St. John's Medical Schools growth, explained how difficulties become increasingly greater in trying to run institutions of any kind. Mr. Fowler cited the friction experienced in trying to form a union at Hua Chung, which eventually passed over and now, 25 years later, the institution shows how greatly it benefitted from union. Christian education in China is going to suffer if left on a denominational basis. It was noted that Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley is going to China in the fall and will make a study of this problem.

Dr. Winfield brought out the infinitely greater possibilities for raising money for one great united university than three separate ones.

After further discussion the following motion was passed unanimously:

SJ-1 VOTED That the action of the Committee be as follows:

The Committee has listened with deep interest and sympathy to the statements which have come to it from men and women connected with the Universities and to the recital of the difficulties of the past year and have listened to suggestions that these difficulties may be resolved by an abandonment of the union project, and after due consideration the Committee

has adopted the following resolution:

- a. That this Committee reaffirm its opinion that the creation of East China Union University from St. John's, Hangchow and Soochow is highly advisable and should be consummated as soon as conditions permit.
- b. That the Committee give reassurance of its continued interest and support and its confidence in the ability of the leaders in China to find a solution to the present difficulties.

FINANCES

Dr. Franklin reported on a problem presented to the National Council by the St. John's administration, which said it could not open in September unless assured of \$10,000. Such assurance was given on faith, because it was felt it would be a calamity if St. John's should fail to open. The National Council did not have such a fund. The question was raised as to whether the United Board could supply this amount for St. John's. Dr. McMullen stated that the United Board was expecting to remit at least \$100,000 to China in October and that St. John's would receive its share of this remittance. It was then

SJ-2 VOTED That the St. John's Committee request the United Board to make an appropriation of \$10,000 to St. John's to enable the institution to reopen.

The Associate Treasurer asked permission to pay a bill of \$448 for freight on medicines to St. John's out of a credit of \$476. It was

SJ-3 VOTED To authorize the Treasurer to pay \$448 for freight on medicine sent to St. John's and credit the balance from \$476 to St. John's.

Bishop Roberts then asked special consideration for the St. John's Medical School which needs \$30,000 for expenses for the current year. He said that a St. John's professor studying at Columbia has suggested that some arrangement be negotiated with Columbia University for scholarships and professorships. A new agreement with University of Pennsylvania Christian Association must be made in order to obtain someone to replace Dr. McCracken who has retired. Dr. McCracken reported that this Association has promised to send \$3,000 this year and is also considering sending a Chinese alumnus to St. John's, but this assistance will be far from adequate. Dr. McMullen reported that plans were being made to link Columbia in New York City with East China in Shanghai.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

In accordance with the provision that each University Committee should appoint an Interim Committee it was

SJ-4 VOTED To elect the following as the Interim Committee of St. John's University Committee:-

Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley
Dr. Virginia D. Harrington
Mr. J. Earl Fowler
Dr. Lewis B. Franklin
Miss Helen Turnbull

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

Charles H. Corbett

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

10:30 a.m. Friday, April 22, 1949

Room 903, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

ATTENDANCE

Members:

*Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, Chairman

Mr. Beverly D. Causey, Jr.
*Mr. J. Earl Fowler
*Dr. Lewis B. Franklin
*Mrs. William H. Hannah
Mrs. Bedell H. Harned
*Dr. Virginia D. Harrington

Very Rev. Arthur C. Lichtenberger
Mr. E. Townsend Look
*Rt. Rev. Theodore R. Ludlow
*Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce
Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
Miss Helen Turnbull

Staff:

*Dr. William P. Fenn
*Mr. C. A. Evans

*Dr. Robert J. McMullen
*Mr. Henry B. Scaman

*Mr. Charles H. Corbett

Persons whose names are starred were present.

OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, the Right Reverend John B. Bentley who offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of September 10, 1948 were approved as circulated.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHINA

The Chairman gave an account of his brief visit to St. John's on his recent trip to the Far East, and of the impressions he received there.

Dr. Fenn, the Director of the China office of the United Board, who had arrived in New York a few days previous told of his visits to the University and of conferences with the administration.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

There was a discussion of the financial situation and the need of the University for funds to balance the budget. It was pointed out that the income from tuition has been a smaller factor this year than hitherto, partly because the student enrollment is less and partly because the money paid by students has depreciated so rapidly. Had the rate been fixed at a certain amount of rice, results would have been better. Another factor has been a slight increase in faculty salaries, though these are still quite inadequate.

It was stated that the United Board's Emergency Committee of Five had made a study of the needs of the individual institutions, not only what they require to end the year without a deficit, but also what they must have to pay three months salary in advance ("severance pay") in view of probable eventualities, and to lay up reserves for the University sufficient to carry it through the first half of next academic year. For St. John's, the Emergency Committee would recommend at the meeting of the United Board Trustees to be held that afternoon appropriations to bring the total paid by the United Board during the present fiscal year to \$96,000, according to the following schedule:-

First semester 1948-49 (general budget)	\$10,350		
Second semester 1948-49 (general budget)	<u>31,000</u>	\$41,350	
Severance Pay (three months in advance)	18,000		
Reserves (to bring minimum to \$40,000)	<u>36,650</u>	<u>54,650</u>	\$96,000

In view of the facts brought in the above discussion it was

SJ-5 VOTED to request the Chairman to write St. John's University stressing the need for greater care in financial administration and pointing out that the United Board cannot be expected to meet deficits indefinitely.

STATUS OF EAST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY PROJECT

It was stated that the East China Union University project had been dormant since last fall and the plan to bring senior students to St. John's campus had fallen through largely because many attributed the disorders last year to guest students. Consequently much of the United Board investment in this project had been wasted, the engineering building being little used, though the repairs to dormitories financed by the United Board constitute permanent improvement to the University plant.

It had not been possible to organize a Board of Directors but a "Provisional Board of the Proposed East China Union University" was set up, consisting of T. T. Wu from St. John's, Y. C. Yang from Soochow and Baen Lee from Hangchow. These men are to continue to explore possibilities.

It was clear that the Committee continues its whole-hearted support of the plan for union which is to result in Huatung University.

EVENTUALITIES

There was a discussion of what would happen to St. John's if there were a change in the political regime in Shanghai. It was stated that several western members of the faculty had announced that they would leave China under such a contingency, though some would stay. The University had made plans to have classes in operation all summer in the hope of maintaining control of the buildings. It seemed probable, however, to some members present that St. John's would be closed for a period in the near future during the political crisis.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12 noon.

Charles H. Corbett

Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

2:00 P.M., Friday, April 28, 1950
Room 903, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Members of the Committee

Chairman: *The Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, D.D.

*Rt. Rev. Karl M. Block	Very Rev. A. C. Lichtenberger
*Mr. Beverley D. Causey, Jr.	Mr. E. Townsend Look
*Mr. J. Earl Fowler	*Rt. Rev. Theodore R. Ludlow
Dr. Lewis B. Franklin	*Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce
*Mrs. William H. Hannah	*Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
*Dr. Virginia D. Harrington	*Mr. Samuel Thorne
	Miss Helen B. Turnbull

Staff

*Dr. Robert J. McMullen
*Dr. William P. Fenn
*Mr. Henry B. Seaman

Those whose names are starred were present.

OPENING PRAYER

The Chairman called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on April 22nd, 1949 having been circulated and no errors reported, it was

SJ-6 VOTED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 1949 as circulated.

REPORTS

A brief report on the present situation on the St. John's campus was made by Dr. Fenn. The Committee also studied the document "Christian Colleges in China - Prospects for 1950-51."

In the light of the above, the Committee discussed the recommendations to be made to the United Board as to policy and program for St. John's University for 1950-51.

On motion made by Bishop Block, it was

SJ-7 VOTED BE IT RESOLVED

That we report to the United Board that we are impressed with the apparent maintenance of sound

academic standards at St. John's University despite great tensions, political and educational, especially those incident to shifts in emphasis from courses in the arts to those in the sciences;

That in these days of kaleidoscopic change in China, we express our confidence in the leaders at St. John's University with regard to their knowledge of, and their feeling of responsibility to maintain, these standards;

That our knowledge of the outstanding record of St. John's in continued dedication to its Christian origin and the faith of its founders, over a long period of time and through the exigencies of political, economic, and social change, assures us that administrators, faculty, and students will continue to hold to their Christian function and witness; and

That we record our conviction that, if it is to continue to render effectively the type of Christian service for which it has been noted, St. John's must remain a private institution, and that, to enable it to maintain its independence and integrity, the United Board would continue to rally all friends of St. John's to its support.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Budget - July 1 to December 31, 1950

In presenting the budget for St. John's University, Dr. McMullen explained that the Trustees had voted that the budgets for the colleges should be drawn up to cover not a year but a half year. For St. John's this would be \$10,000 for the Fall semester. During 1949-50 they received \$20,000 for the entire year. It was explained, however, that this is a very meager part of the total program for St. John's.

The University had asked for \$20,000 per semester, since they were facing a \$15,000 deficit. This deficit was mostly due to repairs which were necessary after damage done by nearby bombing during the civil war. These repairs had cost \$14,400; their deficit for the year was \$15,000. The United Board allocated \$10,000 toward these repairs over and above the budget.

In addition to the above, the United Board voted that each of these institutions should have a reserve fund that would be drawn on only with the consent of the Trustees. This reserve fund is based on approximately six months' or one term's expenses if they had no income at all and could be drawn upon for either one of two reasons: to keep the institution open or to close it up. The United Board contributed \$36,650 to the \$40,000 reserve for St. John's.

Further than this, the United Board granted separation pay for each institution. In the case of St. John's this amounted to

\$18,000. The United Board has taken it for granted that the separation pay has been spent.

The United Board has also cancelled the 1949-50 charge against the University for the New York office overhead. This amounted to \$4,500.

The total given to St. John's by the United Board during 1948-49 was \$96,000.

It was also reported that a field budget had been received from the University based on parity units. A short explanation was given.

Dr. McMullen reported that the United Board is going to make a complete re-study of all finances and allocations in view of the present situation and this will be considered by the Trustees at the November meeting. Allocations for the second half of 1950-51 will be based on this re-study.

In connection with taxes, Dr. McMullen felt that as long as the new government wants these institutions to function it will either reduce the taxes or make a government grant to cover them or some such device as that. The time may come, however, when these institutions will have to pay taxes in which case there is nothing to do but to pay them or close. But to date there has not been any excessive taxation.

It was

SJ-8 VOTED to approve the budget for St. John's University for the period July 1 - December 31, 1950 as presented.

(See Appendix A).

INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the membership of the Interim Committee and it was

SJ-9 VOTED that the following members be appointed an Interim Committee of the St. John's University Committee:

The Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, D.D.
Mr. J. Earl Fowler
Dr. Virginia D. Harrington
The Rt. Rev. Theodore R. Ludlow, D.D.
Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman

PROMOTION

Mrs. Hannah, who is the representative of this Committee on the Promotion Committee of the United Board, announced that there was being brought out a new folder on St. John's University. She suggested

that a little more publicity be given to St. John's among the Episcopal groups and that certain speakers be listed among the speaking bureaus. She also advocated further use of the film and wide use of the new leaflet.

Bishop Block stated that he would be glad to promote a St. John's dinner in San Francisco to which the St. John's alumni and other friends would be invited. He asked also that he be informed when any member of the United Board staff visited the west coast in order that he might arrange an appropriate program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Robert J. McMullen

Secretary

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

BUDGET

6 months - July 1, 1950 -
December 31, 1950

ANTICIPATED INCOME

National Council -Protestant Episcopal Church	\$ 1,000.00
United Board for Christian Colleges in China	<u>10,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 11,000.00</u>

AVAILABLE FOR FIELD. \$ 11,000.00

RECORD OF CIRCULATION VOTE

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

January 2, 1951

Members of the Committee:

*Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley
*Rt. Rev. Karl M. Block
*Mr. Beverly D. Causey, Jr.
*Mr. J. Earl Fowler
*Dr. Lewis B. Franklin
Mrs. William H. Hannah
Dr. Virginia D. Harrington

*Very Rev. Arthur C. Lichtenberger
*Mr. E. Townsend Look
*Rt. Rev. Theodore R. Ludlow
*Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce
*Mrs. Arthur M. Sherman
*Mr. Samuel Thorne
*Miss Helen B. Turnbull

Under date of December 19, 1950 the members of the Committee were sent copies of the following document:

Proposed Budget for the period January 1, 1951 to June 30, 1951.

The Committee members were asked to signify their approval or disapproval of the above documents. All those whose names are starred approved of the proposed recommendations as follows; other members have not been heard from:

SJ-10 VOTED to recommend to the United Board approval of the proposed Budget for the six months' period January 1, 1951 to June 30, 1951.

Very truly yours,

Henry B. Seaman

HENRY B. SEAMAN
Associate Treasurer

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

BUDGET

6 months January 1, 1951 - June 30, 1951

ANTICIPATED INCOME

National Council - Protestant Episcopal Church	\$ 1,000.00
United Board for Christian Colleges in China	16,750.00
	<u>\$ 17,750.00</u>

AVAILABLE FOR FIELD \$ 17,750.00