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Academic affairs
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1947, 1948

FUKIEN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Foochow, Fukien

Our file
Oct. 20, 1947

Answer to Questionnaire from United Service to China, Shanghai

1. ENROLLMENT. Approximate total: How does this compare with last year's? are 590 students this year, including 102 women, as against 653 last year, including 98 women.

2. MEN AND WOMEN STUDENTS: What is proportion of women students. Which schools or departments have the greatest number of women?

Approximately 1/5 of the student body, ~~as~~ 102 women. They are distributed by colleges as follows: Arts College 45, Science 34, Agriculture 21, Unclassified 2. By departments: Chinese 9, History 3, Western Language 17, Education 16, Physics 2, Chemistry 14, Biology 18, Horticulture 5, Agricultural Economics 11, Rural Education 5, Unclassified 2.

3. TRENDS OF STUDENT INTERESTS: Does the enrollment by schools or departments indicate a trend toward a greater interest in cultural subjects, professional training, science, sociology, religion?

For a long time Agricultural Economics drew the largest number of students, as the best training for "bank jobs" and some government experimental station jobs. Then with the bad financial conditions, this outlet stopped and Economics enrollment ^{ment} slowed down. But now it is said that "the demand in Formosa exceeds the supply" and Agricultural Economics has become popular again (160 this fall, Western Language with 70 being the next largest department, Biology 60, Chemistry 56, Chinese 49, Agronomy 47, Education 45, Horticulture 35, Physics 28, History 20, Rural Education 13, Unclassified 7). Hence the departments which seem to offer nothing but teaching jobs, such as History, are small. Chemistry has been high, and now Physics is rising. It is interesting that English seems to lead to careers other than teaching, and English is now the second largest department in Fukien. English helps one to go abroad most easily, to get into journalism, become a secretary, but the greatest number of English students become English teachers because the demands exceeds the supply.

4. WARTIME HANDICAPS: Does the university begin a new academic year under handicaps which are a hangover from the war period, i.e., reconstruction and repairs uncompleted; still great need for new teaching equipment, etc?

No, Fukien was fortunate in this regard. Her moving was up a river 250 miles in the same province. She had only to load rafts with her equipment and float them down. That equipment was quite largely worn out, the books got spotted when waves broke over the boxes, but at least new Chemistry, Biology, and Physics supplies have come from abroad. Not much relief as to books. As to reconstruction, visitors still marvel at the miracle of rebuilding accomplished by the late President C. J. Lin. It is said, "President Lin would never take no for an answer to his demand for supplies and labor." We do start under handicaps of another sort: a new president, a new dean, and the ever-looming "student agitation" (what is new there? who knows?)!

5. TEACHING STAFF: Are there still too few teachers in proportion to size of classes requiring heavy teaching schedules or omission of some courses? How many of the staff are abroad?

With orders from New York to "retrench" the answer to this question is in the affirmative. For a long time we have held that our teaching load was 12 hours. Few actually did more than 10. The government universities' teachers did less than we. Now, to make 15 a standard has required great will-power on the president's part, but I can say that most of our staff has loyally risen to the new "way". It must be remembered that even with the peace, food is difficult to get and all China is undernourished; even the Westerner (the writer) continues to lose weight; the main problem for the Westerner is that the food has lost taste.

It is impossible in China to "omit courses" - since the Ministry of Education sets up a rigid schedule of the courses required for the degree in the various lines. Some teachers must be found. The courses that can be omitted then are those which do not count toward a

degree, purely elective courses. For Fukien, these are Music (Theory, Appreciation), and Religion. For even if we had a "professor of religion" we should have to draft him, as we have drafted our chaplain to be acting head of the Chemistry Department.

Five members of the faculty are abroad this year.

6. NEW COURSES: Are you beginning any new courses this year?

What is new at Fukien is (a) the development of the Education Department. This was closed by government order in 1943 (only national universities "could be trusted to train the nation's teachers"), but we were allowed to re-open in 1946. (b) The reorganization of the College of Agriculture. This has been overweighed on the side of the single Department of Agricultural Economics (see page one). It will now be orientated toward Agronomy with Economics secondary to the "farm or rural outlook". The problem, or opportunity, according as one looks at it, for Fukien at this point in its program is pretty vital. The New York office, apparently, looking at China as though it were America (?) seems to think one or two "Ag" Colleges can serve the country, and so several persons have suggested that our Ag. College be given up. Apart from the absolute necessity for having three colleges in order to qualify for a Ta Hsueh, or University, the peculiar aims of Fukien should be considered. They are to function as a provincial college, working for a province and setting a model for such work. Let other institutions be cosmopolitan. (We do have a peculiar cosmopolitan orientation too. We are best placed for connection with Formosa. At the moment Formosa is all business and "government"; culture seems at a low ebb to judge by the showing in our entrance exams, but when it gets up we can serve it. Fukien has also had "one foot" in Nanyang (the South Seas, witness "New Foochow" in Borneo) and we too might become a South Seas College, along with Lingnan, but all of that is in the future). Fukien is a farming province. The church is largely a rural church. The "Ag" College setting out on a Christian-scientific (or scientific-Christian) basis to serve the people, is making a plan for true extension work, long talked but long neglected. This has the blessing and cooperation of church forces, through the efforts of Dr. Irma Highbaugh, NCC Secretary for Rural Churches, who recently spent several months in Fukien. In short, Fukien feels it would not be Fukien Christian University if it were deprived of this contact with the soil of Fukien!

7. TUITION: Has tuition been raised this year? What resources does the university have for helping needy students?

Tuition was raised from \$90,000 last spring semester to \$600,000 this semester. We have a small scholarship endowment which is wholly inadequate to meet present-day needs. We used approximately 11% of the tuition fee income for scholarships this fall.

8. THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY: What departments of the university are serving the community, i.e., medical students to practice work in city hospitals, sociology, students work in rural or city welfare centers, etc.

This accords with our ideals, but so far we have little to report. We moved down to the old campus in the spring of 1946. The year 1946-47 was spent in getting started again and overcoming the slump that might develop after the death of the late President C. J. Lin, (in New York, January 6, 1947). Plans for extension are described above. The Student Christian Association was active in the town of Shaowu. So far it is active only within campus limits, schools for campus children, workmen's classes, etc. All this calls for (a) organization and (b) student interest. Both are lacking: (1) because of faculty preoccupation with new problems, and (2) because of student unrest. All China has slipped back (all the way from to the pre-revolutionary Ching dynasty days in the opinion of this writer) including Christianity and the tendency of the follower of the Faith is to prefer personal to social religion.