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Please return to Mrs. R. O. Kee
14 Beacon St.
Boston, Mass.

October 16, 1928

Mrs. O. R. Williamson,
135 No. Scoville Avenue,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Dear Mrs. Williamson:

Thank you for your letter of September 10th just received.

I am enclosing what, so far as our records show, seems to be the "first" treasurer's report. It may not cover just what you would expect it should, and I shall be glad of suggestions.

I have asked the auditor to send his statement for the year 1927-1928 directly to you and he assured me it would be mailed today. There has been delay in auditing the books, but I trust the report will arrive in time for your November meeting. At my request our Finance Committee voted to have Mr. Beddow, a commercial auditor (who also takes care of the accounts of the University) audit our books this year. Heretofore this has been done by some Mission treasurer who could spare the time but never by a trained accountant.

We have never lost faith in the Yenching College Committee nor in the efficacy of its efforts in our behalf. We evidently misunderstood Dr. Stuart when he talked to us in June after his return from America. He seemed to feel so strongly the urgency of merging financially that he perhaps gave us a gloomier picture of the position and discouragement of the Yenching Committee than he really intended. However we felt even at that time that the Committee could not have changed in spirit and courage so quickly, in spite of the uncertainty of events in China and of increasing difficulties in gathering in the shekels.

Mrs. Frame in a recent letter quotes some one as saying, "Any donors or sources of money supply could designate funds: for instance, the women's boards, Wellesley, etc., could ~~designate~~ ~~funds~~ send in their gifts to a common treasury, but distinctly designated for salaries or dormitory upkeep or equipment for the Women's College. The men could not legally alienate it to any other use." To my mind the Women's College so interlaps with the University that it cannot keep its complete funds or budget distinct unless it is separately governed as at present. The Women's College treasurer could be eliminated and the bookkeeping and other details done in the University treasurer's office, but to keep the Women's College as an entity, as at present, it needs to have full control of its own funds. I do not maintain that we ought by all means to keep hold of this financial power with which to preserve our "rights" and our entity. I only have the feeling that if we ought or want to keep our entity and to be sure

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of safeguarding adequately the interests of the women students, it will have to be done by keeping control of a sufficiently large budget as we do now. I see no other means of control. I feel that if the treasuries should be merged, although statements may be made that women shall be adequately represented on committees and in control, in order that women students' welfare and interests may be cared for, and an adequate faculty of women be insured, still in the nature of things, this being a "man's world", women faculty will diminish in numbers and the smaller unit and its needs be swallowed up in the demands and impetus of the University.

X A Fund for Equipment or a Fund for Salaries for Women Teachers should and could easily be kept as a Fund and so disbursed to its proper use. But suppose, for example, this special Fund for Salaries for Women Teachers did not equal our present budget for salaries, would it be likely that as many women teachers would be employed as are at present on the staff, ~~with~~ the money for salaries that would need to be supplied from the University treasury to make up the difference? The choice would not inevitably be a man, but is it now probably that in eight cases out of ten this would be the result? The men mean well, mean to be fair and just, but they are in the majority, they think in terms of men alone, especially in departments and offices where they have not been in the habit of sharing opinions and decisions with women. Let me cite a recent example - Running hot water has for the past year been supplied by the Power Plant during certain hours in the early morning, at noon, and through the evening, according to a decision of the Operation and Maintenance Committee. A few weeks ago the men students requested some change in these hours and without consulting the women students or the six faculty members who live in the women's dormitories, or the Dean's Residence, also on central water supply, the evening hours were changed, to the great inconvenience of the women students and women faculty members. When the two officers of University administration responsible for ordering this change were approached by the Women's College Dean regarding the cutting off of some of the hours of hot water supply, there were great apologies for not ~~having~~ consulted members of the College. They had completely forgotten our existence! They had not meant to be discourteous or inconsiderate or unkind; they had simply forgotten us, - notwithstanding we pay nearly one-third of the expenses of the Power Plant.

In case of merging, unless there were adequate funds for the special phases of the Women's College such as salaries for a sufficient number of women faculty, equipment for women's dormitories, upkeep and expansion of the Physical Education Department, expenses of the Home Economics Department and Practice House, beautifying of our campus, these needs would probably not be as adequately met as they are at present. Their budgets would be ~~as~~ curtailed as are some University departments at present. General University funds would be split into minute particles.

You in America should, when trying to visualize us, think of the teaching profession as though it were of the status of the legal profession in America, for in America women predominate as teachers and men as lawyers and you will miss the point of our man's world unless you visualize women teachers here as being as much in the minority among men as are women lawyers in America. In China in

higher education men teachers are in the majority, both Chinese and foreigners.

These ideas may not be worth anything. You probably have already thought of them all!

Should the status of our treasury remain as it is, would it not be possible for the Yenching Committee in some way to inquire of donors of large sums to the "University" whether their gifts were not meant also for the Women's College? If they were, should not some proportion of each sum be assigned to the Women's College and the money given to our treasury or credit allowed? As it is now, the Women's College pays to the University our one-fifth share of expenses but no credit has ever been allowed us for a share in these special funds or gifts except in the case of the China Medical Board. Dr. Stuart's attitude, as I understand it, is that at least some of these gifts are meant also for the Women's College as part of the University but that we get nothing directly unless we are fully a part of the University.

With best wishes and hoping the November meeting will be a satisfactory one to you all in every way,

Very sincerely yours,

Edith C. Boynton

Treasurer

Registered Mail

Language School
Peiping, China

RECEIVED 18, 1930
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Lucius O. Lee
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.

MAY 15 1930

Dear Mrs. Lee: *Ans. June 26.*

Regarding the settlement of my return passage money Mrs. Frame has written quoting your letter that "the University pays travel both ways only for a term of five years and that a proportionate portion of the round trip travel is paid for anything less than this."

This came as a distinct surprise to me as none of the University contracts that I have known about have been based on that proportion. For a **three** year contract, full passage out is paid and three-fifths of return passage; for four years, four-fifths of return passage. I confirmed this information a few days ago from the University's treasurer's office.

I dislike exceedingly to even seem to be "grasping", for I am not. I wish I could afford to be generous and waive what I think is due me. I was sorry to leave Yenching and did it only because of financial pressure at home. I do not receive travel allowance from my present position.

The first confusion or difficulty arose when I based my reckoning on g. \$600. which is the amount for travel allowance that has been in the budget for two years or so,

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and which is the amount, therefore, that the Finance Committee last summer thought it quite in order to pay Miss Wagner and Dr. Brown. The University treasurer's office also gave \$600. That information was given me before the Finance Com. voted. Then the new appointees last fall complained because their contracts called for less, and that began the correspondence, I believe.

When I came out I came (in good faith) for five years. I preferred three as I was not sure of my home conditions, but I was told it had to be for five. When I arrived on the field I found Miss Wagner had come out for three years with full round passage. However I was back in China and at Yenching and the difference in length of term did not trouble me at all for I preferred to live in China. The difficulty has arisen now when after 3 1/2 years I am paid 3/5ths of round trip while Miss Wagner who came out only ~~for~~ a few months before me received full round passage after three years. (She stayed four but her contract was for three.) Unfortunately my contract, as was hers, was a verbal one only and nothing was said about amount of passage for less than five years.

I am not saying that since Miss Wagner received full passage after three years therefore I should; because my contract was for five I of course stand by it. I ask only that I be given an amount according to regular past procedure which is a proportion based on return passage, not on round trip. I have a feeling that your understanding of this is the same as mine and that there was a typographical error in your letter which has caused the misunderstanding. I have taken this up with you directly, at the request of Mrs. Frame.

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Hoping you will understand
that I am not writing this
in a complaining, grasping
spirit, and awaiting as
early a reply as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Edith C. Boynton

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June 26, 1930.

Miss Edith Boynton
North China Language School
Peiping, China.

Dear Miss Boynton:

I have your registered letter of April 18 which reached here on May 15. The question you raise was one which seemed necessary to refer to the Finance Committee of the University which is now the body dealing with financial questions of the Woman's College as well as of other parts of the University.

I regret the long delay in reaching a decision as to the question you raise, but I cannot yet report a definite decision as you will see by the following vote passed by the Finance Committee at its meeting on June 11th.

"Voted, that the Committee on Salaries and Pensions be instructed to study the whole situation regarding travel allowances and related contingencies with the purpose of making definite recommendations to cover emergencies, and that Miss Boynton's request be considered at the same time and definite recommendations be made to cover her particular case."

As we studied the question you raise we discovered that there was considerable difference in the contract heretofore used by the Woman's College Committee and the contract used by the University. The Woman's College Committee contract heretofore used is in accord with the settlement Mrs. Frame has already made with you. The University contract provides for three-fifths of the return travel rather than the round trip travel in the case of faculty members who stay only three instead of five years. When the question of any further refund on account of your return travel was raised with the Finance Committee some members felt that you were not really entitled to any return travel as you continuing in Peiping and as you left the college at your own volition. As I said above I am sorry to keep the matter so long in suspense but I think now the only thing we can do is to await the result of the study of the Finance Committee. As committee meetings of any kind will be practically impossible until after the period of

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Miss Boynton --2

vacations it may be two or three months before we can say anything further. I trust you are enjoying your work in the Language School.

With kind personal greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Lucius O. Lee)

L:pmh

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