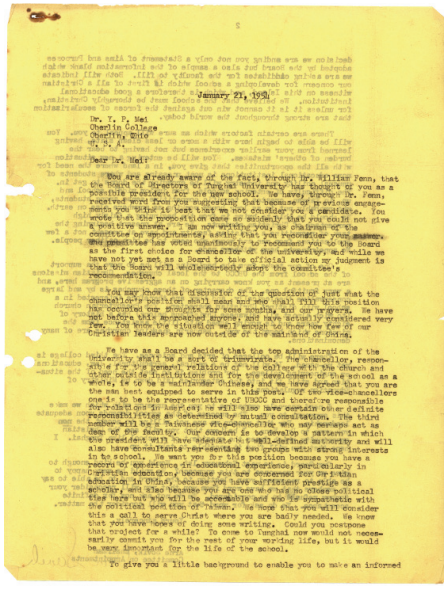
# 館藏文物選粹(五十四)：勸進梅貽寶博士擔任校長信

讀者服務組　陳曦

「梅貽寶博士資歷查核信」爲圖書館典藏之東海大學早期文件之一。此文件爲英文書信，全信共二頁。寄信時間爲 1954 年 1 月 21 日，收件地址爲 Oberlin College / Oberlin, Ohio / U. S. A.。寄件人爲牧師魏德光 Arne Sovik，時任提名委員會主席(chairman, committee on Appointments)。



January 21, 1954

Dr. Y. P. Mei
Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio
U. S. A.

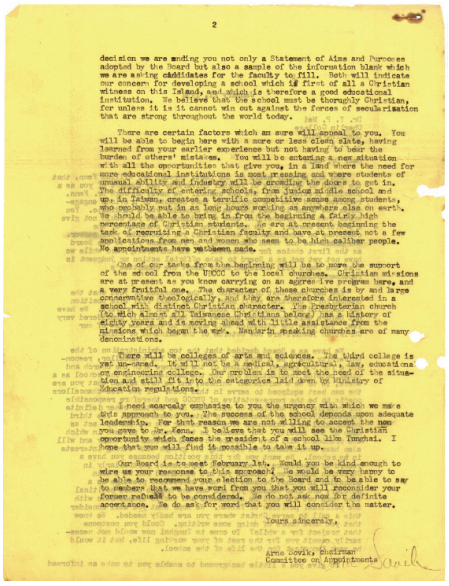
Dear Dr. Mei:

You are already aware of the fact, through Dr. William Fenn, that the Board of Directors of Tunghai University has thought of you as a possible president for the new school. We have, through Dr. Fenn, received word from you suggesting that because of previous engagements you think it best that we not consider you a candidate. You wrote that the proposition came so suddenly that you could not give a positive answer. I am now writing you, as chairman of the committee on appointments, asking that you reconsider your answer. The committee has voted unanimously to recommend you to the Board as the first choice for chancellor of the university, and while we have not yet met as a Board to take official action or judgment is that the Board will wholeheartedly adopt the committee's recommendation.

You may know that discussion of the question of just what the chancellor's position shall mean and who shall fill this position has occupied our thoughts for some months, and our prayers. We have not before this approached anyone, and have actually considered very few. You know the situation well enough to know how few of our Christian leaders are now outside of the mainland of China.

We have as a Board decided that the top administration of the University shall be a sort of triumvirate. The chancellor, responsible for the general relations of the college with the church and other outside institutions and for the development of the school as a whole, is to be a mainlander Chinese, and we have agreed that you are the man best equipped to serve in this post. Of two vice-chancellors one is to be the representative of UBCC and therefore responsible for relations in America; he will also have certain other definite responsibilities as determined by mutual consultation. The third member will be a Taiwanese vice-chancellor who may perhaps act as dean of the faculty. Our concern is to develop a pattern in which the president will have adequate but well-defined authority and will also have consultants representing two groups with strong interests in the school. We want you for this position because you have a record of experience in educational experience, particularly in Christian education, because you are concerned for Christian education in China, because you have sufficient prestige as a scholar, and also because you are one who has no close political ties here but who will be accessible and who is sympathetic with the political position of Taiwan. We hope that you will consider this a call to serve Christ where you are badly needed. We know that you have hopes of doing some writing. Could you postpone that project for a while? To come to Tunghai now would not necessarily commit you for the rest of your working life, but it would be very important for the life of the school.

To give you a little background to enable you to make an informed



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decision we are sending you not only a Statement of Aims and Purposes adopted by the Board but also a sample of the information blank which we are asking candidates for the faculty to fill. Both will indicate our concern for developing a school which is first of all a Christian witness on this Island, and which is therefore a good educational institution. We believe that the school must be thoroughly Christian, for unless it is it cannot win out against the forces of secularization that are strong throughout the world today.

There are certain factors which an aure will appeal to you. You will be able to begin here with a more or less clean slate, having learned from your earlier experience but not having to bear the burden of others' mistakes. You will be entering a new situation with all the opportunities that give you, in a land where the need for more educational institutions is most pressing and where students of unusual ability and industry will be crowding the doors to get in. The difficulty of entering schools, from junior middle school and up, in Taiwan, creates a terrific competitive sense among students, who probably put in as long hours working as anywhere else on earth. We should be able to bring in from the beginning a fairly high percentage of Christian students. We are at present beginning the task of recruiting a Christian faculty and have at present not a few applications from men and women who seem to be high caliber people. No appointments have yet been made.

One of our tasks from the beginning will be to move the support of the school from the UBCC to the local churches. Christian missions are at present as you know carrying on an aggressive program here, and a very fruitful one. The character of these churches is by and large conservative theologically, and they are therefore interested in a school with distinct Christian character. The Presbyterian church (to which almost all Taiwanese Christians belong) has a history of eighty years and is moving ahead with little assistance from the missions which began the work. Mandarin speaking churches are of many denominations.

There will be colleges of arts and sciences. The third college is yet un-named. It will not be a medical, agricultural, law, educational or engineering college. Our problem is to meet the need of the situation and still fit into the categories laid down by Ministry of Education regulations.

I need scarcely emphasize to you the urgency with which we make this approach to you. The success of the school depends upon adequate leadership. For that reason we are not willing to accept the name you gave to Dr. Fenn. I believe that you will see the Christian opportunity which faces the president of a school like Tunghai. I hope that you will find it possible to take it up.

Our Board is to meet February 1st. Would you be kind enough to wire us your response to this approach? We would be very happy to be able to recommend your election to the Board and to be able to say to members that we have word from you that you will reconsider your former refusal to be considered. We do not ask now for definite acceptance. We do ask for word that you will consider the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Arne Sovik, chairman
Committee on Appointments

該信旨在勸說收件人梅貽寶博士重新考慮接受東海大學建校後校長人選之提名，全信力勸收件人再考慮向芳威廉博士表示婉拒的答案。信中語言軟性與強硬並施，試圖從當時中國基督教高等教育的處境，以及收件人本身具備的知識背景、意識型態條件，分析收件人何以爲東海大學校長人選的適任者。並且提出東海大學作爲一所在全新土地上重新出發的基督教大學，具備了怎樣的優勢條件能讓首任校長一展長才。同時隨信附上人選提名表格希望能獲填寫，一度寫道不接受同意之外的答案。其勸進意圖強烈，令人印象深刻。

信中提到東海大學預計成立三個學院，除文學院、理學院已確定之外，第三個學院還未定，但不會是醫學、農學、法律、教育或機械學院。表示建校遇到的問題是要迎合建校需求的同時也要遵守當地政策。