The first item of discussion was whether the Libraries/Honors College should cover the costs of landscaping in the surrounding areas of the projected expansion. The group unanimously decided that we should not be paying for this, especially since we are already paying for the architectural planning and preliminary investigation of the structure.

Dean Allen reminded those present that the architects had requested a decision from the University administration about whether they should go ahead with the existing planning strategy for the expansion. Provost McMath said that he personally thought that the projected quoted cost estimate for the building of $120,000 million was prohibitive, and that we would not be able to raise the required three-quarters of that sum through a fundraising campaign. All present agreed. Provost indicated that numerous unresolved issues were still out there that had to be addressed before he felt comfortable making such a decision. He would like to wait until more data are received about the general existing condition of the building, as well as other information. Juana Young agreed and mentioned that more information is needed regarding the space needs for our expanding collection in the future, as well. This was her main concern.

There ensued a discussion about projected collection space. Judy Ganson mentioned that as the library moves to more electronic collections this will offset somewhat a traditional growth of collections, especially of periodicals. More and more volumes will be designated for move to off-site storage as they become available electronically. A very theoretical discussion ensued about the very hypothetical concepts of a stand-alone science library somewhere on campus, and/or perhaps a stand-alone space for Special Collections, the Pryor Center, and fine arts materials. There was also discussion about a possible underground extension toward the Union for collections. Having any of these separate structures would provide more space for the rest of the collection in the main building. All agreed that the major part of the collection should remain as accessible and browsable as possible. Dean Allen warned that we have to be careful
about diminishing any part of our collection when it hasn’t been resolved yet whether we still want to strive to be an ARL library.

Suzanne McCray indicated that she could cope with the minimum projected space estimates for the Honors College, but no less. She was not yet sure of future needed growth space, but she was almost certain that the College will grow. She also mentioned that she was somewhat concerned that the architects were not fully aware of the need of the Honors College to have truly dedicated space. Juana reassured her that she will work with them to be sure they understand this concept.

Gary Smith was present to discuss how Parking & Transit can accommodate the Libraries’ plans to remain open until 2:00 a.m. during the week, except Fridays and Saturdays. Gary suggested that those working until 2:00 a.m. gather at the west door after work and then walk (escorted by Razorback patrol, if they wish) to the parking garage en masse, and he would ensure that designated faculty/staff parking (or reduced-cost reserve parking—amounting to not much more than the cost of faculty/staff parking) would be available during their work cycle (5:00 pm.-2:00 am.). Also, a camera is present in the garage for further security. Everyone thanked Gary for his help with this.

Juana brought up the topic of travel allocations for library faculty and staff. Dean Allen thought it only fair that she and the other members of the admin group tell Juana where she could cut costs for their own travel, and they all volunteered either to cut travel activities or pay for some travel costs out of their own pockets. She also thought it only fair that in future Special Collections should not have to pay for its own travel costs out of the Special Collections fund but that these should be paid for by the Libraries just as it does for any other department. All thought it best to have a set maximum of no more than $2,000 or $2,500 per person, and each person could do what they willed in terms of travel with that amount. If anyone in the library wanted to do any additional travel at no further cost to the library, they would still be eligible for release time during their period of travel. Those who requested less than that amount would be given just the amount they requested. Juana said she would crunch more numbers to determine whether the $2,000 or $2,500 ceiling was more feasible.

Judy Ganson mentioned that our library will be a part of GWLA’s grant program to allow us to pay for student work in preparing our contributions to the Technical Reports Project to be shipped off for digitization.

Dean Allen asked Judy Ganson to prepare a justification to give to Provost McMath indicating how important some of our large science databases (ScienceDirect, Web of
Science, and IEEE Electronic Library) are to faculty and student research in order for the library to receive additional funds this year to cover the rising cost of these databases.