Cabinet Minutes
April 16, 2002

Present: Allen, Bailey, Candido, Cantrell, Cleek, Conway, Dean, Ganson, Gupta, Hartsell, Johnson, Juhl, Kulczak, Lennertz, McKee, Parsch, Simpson, Santos, Williams, Young

Dean mentioned that automation personnel will be replacing the rack that holds the wires and electronics in the wiring closet on the Lobby Level and that many computers on Level Two will not function while they work on this during the week after graduation. Computers in other parts of the library (e.g., Rm. 102) will be available to personnel if needed during this period.

Elizabeth McKee reported that she and Kristine Shrauger attended the ArkLA College and University spring meeting on Friday April 12 at CALS in Little Rock. She told them about the challenge grant/gift made by the Waltons that had just been announced. The meeting focused on Information Literacy and what the various libraries around the state were doing in that area. The presentations were very good and demonstrated a good deal of energy and fresh ideas.

Dean Allen discussed what is known thusfar about the recently announced $300 million Walton family gift to the University. See details at http://pigtrail.uark.edu/news/2002/APR02/gift/300mil.html

Allen indicated that a board of governors (made up of the chancellor, provost, dean of the new Honors College, vice chancellor for university advancement, vice chancellor for student affairs, and representatives of the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation) will approve plans for the Honors College and will review program proposals submitted by campus departments and programs. The programs within the Honors College will be highly interdisciplinary. The library will eventually realize $28 million from the gift and will receive immediately an additional $5 million to bolster collections. Eventually we will have to decide whether we need to hire a librarian to handle matters related to the new Honors College. There will also be naming opportunities in the library, as well as more grant activity to secure matching grant funds. It is still unclear as to how much of the $5 million earmarked for technological upgrades and equipment will be able to be used by the library.

Allen mentioned that we as a library will be an important “steering component” of the ship that is to be built with the Walton funds, and we will be under major scrutiny for the next five years. It is critical that we work cohesively to create the programs necessary in the library to support the new level of quality and growth in the University’s programs and to succeed in our goals. We will have to retool again so that by July 1 we are prepared to begin. This will require more and faster work, but everyone will receive deserved praise for that work too.

It is not known if there will eventually be a separate building housing the Honors College, but for the time being Pomfret Hall will be remodeled and refitted to become an Honors dorm. There should be more money available for personnel as we turn over our budget when money for collections is received.

Bailey added that library personnel should be on the alert to what is being done elsewhere on
campus with this money and to be alert to where we can plug ourselves in to help accommodate campus goals.

Allen emphasized that “faster” will be the key word for the next few months as we retool and sustain the next level of support for campus programs, students, and faculty.