VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

Molecular Engineering Interdisciplinary Academic Building - Architect

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the President be delegated authority to award design contracts for pre-design and design services for the Molecular Engineering Interdisciplinary Academic Project with the firm of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP, subject to the successful negotiation of agreements.

In the event of an unsuccessful negotiation with the selected firm, it is requested that authority be delegated to open negotiations with CO Architects, followed by (if necessary) NBBJ Architects, the firms recommended as first and second alternates.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed Molecular Engineering Interdisciplinary Academic Building (MEIAB) is to be constructed as a complement to the University's existing engineering facilities. This new facility will enable significant advances in the molecular engineering program, and will provide space for the development of interdisciplinary programs melding molecular engineering with aspects of medicine, biology, nanotechnology, physics, and quantitative systems.

The roots of the molecular engineering program at the University of Washington are already in place as a result of recent developments in bioengineering and nanotechnology. There are already molecular engineers in bioengineering, chemical engineering, nanotechnology, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and materials science engineering. The proposed new facility will provide the necessary modern program space to bring these departments together to meet the next generation needs of interdisciplinary teaching and research in molecular engineering and these related disciplines. Molecular engineering encompasses aspects of all of these areas as they relate to the manufacturing of molecules. Molecular engineering technology may be used to create, on an extremely small scale, new molecules which may not exist in nature.

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The MEIAB will consolidate space currently located in existing facilities, as well as accommodate anticipated growth. The building will provide instrumentation laboratories with ultra low vibration and electromagnetic interference, as well as preparatory laboratories and flexible research and teaching laboratories. Office space will also be provided for faculty, staff, and graduate students. This environmentally quiet space will permit consolidation of sensitive molecular and nanotechnology instrumentation, providing enhanced research synergy between programs.

This project is estimated at 80,000 gross square feet. It is currently anticipated to maximize ground and basement levels to provide laboratories with low vibration and electromagnetic interference as well as provide above ground laboratories and office space. This will permit a potential second phase of approximately 80,000 gsf of further major expansion of laboratory and office space.

Funding of $5,000,000 for pre-design and design has been allocated by the State based on a Project Request of $62,500,000. The construction phase is contingent upon funding by the Legislature, anticipated to be allocated for the 2009-2011 biennium. The project schedule is: pre-design, July 2007 to December 2007; design, April 2008 to April 2010; and construction, April 2110 to April 2112. Upon completion of the pre-design phase, a project cost estimate will be developed and a request will be made to establish the project budget.

In May 2007, the Capital Projects Office advertised for firms interested in providing pre-design and design services. Seven firms responded to the Request for Qualifications for this project, and three firms were interviewed by the Architectural Commission on June 4, 2007. The selection committee included the University Architectural Advisor, members from the Capital Projects Office, the Capital and Space Planning Office and the College of Engineering. The recommendation is that Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP be appointed design architect for this project. This appointment will include both the State funded project and a potential second phase if funding is available to proceed in a timely manner. The Architectural Commission is charged with identifying the top firm as well as alternates, or second and third ranked firms, ensuring that negotiations can continue in a timely manner. The alternate firms recommended by the Architectural Commission are CO Architects as alternate and NBBJ Architects as second alternate.

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP has 450 architects, interior designers and urban planners working in five offices including a staff of 90 in Seattle. The firm has extensive experience in research and teaching laboratories for colleges and

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universities nationwide including recent similar facilities at the University of Michigan, University of California Berkeley, Cornell University, Duke University and Northwestern University. The firm was the architect for the six building 1.3 million square feet Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.