

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES**B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**

In Joint Session with

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee**UW Tower Building C Data Center – 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 a design contract for the UW Tower Building C Data Center project to the firm of Callison, subject to successful negotiation of an architectural agreement.

BACKGROUND:

The UW Tower properties, located at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue and NE 45th Street (formerly Safeco) consist of over 500,000 square feet of space including a 22 story office building tower and three four story office buildings. This project will develop approximately 38,000 square feet of the 102,800 square foot Building C. Interior spaces in levels 1 and 2 and the basement of Building C will be demolished to the structure and new data center facilities will be installed. Occupancy planning for the UW Tower properties is underway, and adjacencies will be confirmed in July.

The Building C Data Center project is an important component of the university's strategy to provide predictable and reliable computing capacity in distributed, but centrally managed data center facilities. The overall data center facilities strategy includes the provision of new capacity in the Building C project, energy savings and other building improvements to the existing primary data center at the 4545 Building, and operation of an off campus data center in leased facilities to address the need for flexibility. The UW Tower Building C Data Center will add needed capacity to serve users requiring additional computing capability in a facility close to campus. The 4545 Building Data Center and offsite lease facility will house users that require high levels of reliability, and will help to minimize risk by providing scalable capacity to meet future needs.

The UW Tower Building C Data Center will take advantage of existing infrastructure in the former Safeco property and will be designed to efficiently provide power and cooling to servers; strategically provide a limited amount of spare equipment to improve reliability, and upgrade the building structure to minimum current seismic code requirements.

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In February, 2007, the Capital Projects Office advertised for firms interested in providing architectural services. Six firms responded to the Request for Qualifications for this project, and three firms were interviewed by the selection committee. The selection committee is composed of representatives from Computing and Communications, Campus Engineering, Capital and Space Planning, Computer Science & Engineering (representing the research community) and the Capital Projects Office. The selection committee recommended that Callison be appointed architect for this project.

Callison is an international firm headquartered in Seattle, with over 650 employees, including a group that specializes in data centers. Callison has previously performed design services for the University of Washington under a term agreement for the UW Health Science Center signed in 2004 for the UWMC MRI 3T project and NW Wing Radiology Office Minus One Level project. Callison also served as the consultant in support of earlier data center planning activities during 2004. Callison is a well known and experienced data center design and consulting firm and has previously performed design services for the King County Data Center at Fisher Plaza, multiple Washington Mutual data centers, multiple Telegis data centers, the Sabey Data Center project in East Wenatchee, and an Amazon.com data center.

The project budget of \$32,500,000 will be funded from three fund sources. The project pre-design, funded with \$500,000 in local funds, was completed and submitted to the Governor's Office of Financial Management in January, 2007 in support of the University of Washington's 2007-09 state capital budget requests. The 2007-09 state capital conference budget provides \$25,000,000 for Computing and Communications Upgrades/Data Center of which \$20,000,000 will be allocated to the Building C Data Center project, and the remaining \$5,000,000 will be used for connectivity improvements associated with the new data center as well as throughout the campus. The balance of \$12,000,000 will be provided through local revenue bonds paid by indirect cost recovery funds. The bond funds will help support development of data center capacity for research users.