

**VII. STANDING COMMITTEES****B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee**Appointment of External AuditorsRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the Board of Regents appoint:

Peterson Sullivan PLLC as external auditor for the Vice Provost of Student Life for an initial term of four years ending June 30, 2011, with options to extend the contract for three additional two year periods through June 30, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Organizations covered by this audit contract are Housing and Food Services, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Associated Students of the University of Washington, Student Publications, and Student Activities and Union Facilities. The previous external audit contract ended with the fiscal year 2007.

In January, 2008, an advisory committee convened to review the Vice Provost's audit needs and oversee the selection process for external audit services. A formal request for proposal was issued; Peterson Sullivan PLLC was the sole responding firm.

The advisory committee considered the experience, technical skills, and responsiveness of the audit team, Peterson Sullivan's past staffing and considerable experience with Student Life, and cost. After careful review and discussion, the advisory committee recommended the selection of Peterson Sullivan PLLC.

While the cost of the proposed contract increases over current pricing, the complexity of the IT environment and operations has significantly increased since the last contract was awarded in 1997. The level of satisfaction with current audit services provided by Peterson Sullivan PLLC, in addition to the firm's regional presence, contributed to their selection.

REVIEW AND APPROVALS:

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Vice Provost for Student Life, the Senior Vice President of Finance and Facilities, and the Executive Director of Audits.