

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES**B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee****Fire Alarm Systems Term Engineering and Professional Services Contract - Engineer****RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the President be delegated authority to award term agreements for engineering and professional services for fire alarm systems to Sparling, subject to successful negotiation of the engineering and professional services agreements.

BACKGROUND:

Within the University Capital Safety Budget for 2007-2009, we anticipate various fire alarm projects and studies that may develop into projects with total project cost between \$200,000 and \$600,000. We anticipate a biennium contract value of \$2,500,000, for two biennia. The total project value for the contract is estimated at \$5,000,000.

The term contract will be for a two year period with an optional two year renewal, for a total term of four years. This is a change from past practice of awarding contracts for two years with a one year extension that was intended to provide a contract valid for projects initiated within one biennium. If the consultant performs well on work awarded during the first biennium then it is the intention of the Capital Projects Office to continue engineering services with the same consultant for a second biennium. It is anticipated that working with a consultant with successful recent experience in the design and delivery of projects for the University of Washington will result in the production of better design documents in a more timely fashion. It also assures that planning work initiated at the latter end of the first biennium can be executed by the same consultant in the second biennium.

In October 2007, the Capital Projects Office advertised for firms interested in providing engineering and professional services. Five firms responded to the Request for Qualifications, and three firms were interviewed on November 16 and 20. It is the interview team's recommendation that Sparling be awarded a term agreement for engineering and professional services.

Sparling is an electrical engineering and technology consulting firm which has provided services to the University for over 25 years on a broad range of project

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types and sizes from \$500,000 fire alarm projects to new major buildings. The firm has extensive fire safety experience and is presently working on fire alarm projects at the University under a term agreement that will expire in August 2008. Sparling has been in business for 60 years and has over 160 employees.

Funding for projects completed under these contracts will be from general safety funding through Environmental Health and Safety.