

SUBSTITUTE AGENDA ITEM
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
JULY 7, 2003

3. **U. T. System: Delegation of Authority to Negotiate and Sign a Consulting Contract with The Washington Advisory Group, LLC for the Purpose of Expanding the Research Capabilities of the U. T. System**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel that the Board delegate authority to the Chancellor or his designee to negotiate and sign a contract with The Washington Advisory Group, LLC to provide consulting services for the purpose of expanding the research capabilities of the U. T. System.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

U. T. System issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking assistance from qualified consultants in developing a detailed plan to expand the research capability of eight of its academic institutions and to enhance their general institutional effectiveness. A set of strategies and tactics is sought for using current resources to greater effect and for future development of the institutions. Highly focused solutions, aligned with national and state research priorities, are the expected outcome.

The following consultants submitted proposals in response to the RFP:

- Teresa Montoya Communications, Inc.
- Technology Futures, Inc. and New Economy Strategies
- The Washington Advisory Group, LLC

An evaluation committee made up of the Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations and Policy, the Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Executive Associate to the Chancellor for Accountability and Institutional Improvement, the Research and Policy Analyst for Academic Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary to the Board evaluated the proposals.

As a result of this review, the evaluation committee recommends that U. T. System enter into negotiations with The Washington Advisory Group with the intent of finalizing a contract that could be approved and signed by the Chancellor.

The fee for services being proposed by The Washington Advisory Group is \$1,566,853, with travel expenses estimated to be \$198,000 for a total cost of \$1,764,853. A letter of intent to procure these services has been submitted to the Governor's Budget Office, as approval from that office is required before a contract can be finalized.

At the July 7 Board meeting the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will present the scope of the project and answer any questions from the Board.