Each year, one of the responsibilities of CSS is to review special funding requests received from Central Support Units. These units, such as University Libraries or the Office of the CIO or the Office of Human Resources, do not generate funds in the same way that academic units do and so must seek additional resources through internal reallocations or requests for special funding. One of the routes for those requests is through CSS.

As the attached document indicates, over the last five fiscal years the amount available to be distributed in the support unit special budget request process has varied considerably from as much as $19M to as little as $11.2M, and a downward trend has been apparent in the last three years. In addition, the sources of those funds have become inconsistent as funds available from various sources have waxed and waned: investment income was the sole revenue source in FY 2008 and 2009 but now has essentially disappeared; fee reconciliation was a source in FY 2010 and 2011 but in 2011 SFC recommended that these funds be returned to the colleges and so they were not available for FY 2012. The result of these inconsistencies is unstable funding sources and uncertain amounts available for these central support units to apply for as they seek to improve services or engage in new initiatives intended to help Ohio State advance from excellence to eminence.

CSS is presenting for SFC’s review, comment, and discussion at the January 31 meeting this document proposing an initial “filtering” process to ensure that budget requests are funded most appropriately (from internal reallocation or through the capital project funding process sources) and outlining a number of potential sources of funding intended to develop a more stable pool of resources for future support unit budget requests.

After review and comment, and revisions as necessary, it is the goal of CSS that this proposal receives support from SFC and be forwarded to Provost Alutto and Vice President Chatas.