The demand for Computer Science professionals in industry, which plummeted after the “dot-com crash”, is now strong. According to the San Jose Mercury News, there are now more software engineering jobs in the U.S. than there were at the top of the .com bubble. Students finally appear to be realizing this, as our enrollments in the introductory Computer Science programming courses (CSCI-7 and CSCI-14) increased this semester. More than 75% of the students in CSCI-14 this semester report that they are interested in Computer Science or Computer Engineering as a major, the largest number in several years. According to the Institutional Research office, the number of declared AA/AS degree majors has increased slightly this year for the first time in over five years. Also, Computer Science WSCH/FTEF numbers are finally above the college average, again for the first time in years.

These events lead us to believe that enrollments in Computer Science have finally turned around. Currently, the increase in student interest in Computer Science is still small, and only time will tell whether or not the increase in student interest will drive a large increase in enrollments. Student interest in Computer Science as a major has traditionally lagged behind market conditions, and we expect this trend to continue. Thus, we expect any increase in enrollments next year to be small enough to meet with our current FTEF allocation. However, we currently have no Computer Science offerings in summer. Since our overall enrollments have been so low, this made sense. However, we are now asking for an additional allocation of approximately 0.75 FTEF for summer to let us teach a section of CSCI-14 and a section of either CSCI-7 or CSCI-8 in summer.