# Issues involving Registration Waitlisting

1) Are we going to do this?

Our position is that we should, that this will make the lives of both students and faculty easier, reduce student frustration, and help us meet and manage student demand for high demand classes. It should also increase the fairness of the registration process by preventing students from holding spots for other students as they can now.

2) Are we going to turn on this capability for all courses?

Our position is that we should, so that a waiting list is automatically created every time a course fills up. However, since there is some work involved in this, our proposal would be that we focus on key gateway courses for the Fall, with the idea of across time making sure that this is available for all courses. Turning it on for all courses will reduce confusion among students.

3) How large should the waitlist be?

It is possible to create different size waitlists for each course, but there is certainly an argument for consistency. One possibility would be to make each waitlist infinitely large, which would have the advantage of letting us know exactly what the pent up demand was for each course, but would have the potential disadvantage of encouraging students to believe that they might get into courses they have no realistic chance of getting into. Since STAR allows us to count unsuccessful registrations accurately, one suggestion has been to create a waitlist of 25% of the size of the class. If students moved off the waitlist on the regular course list, spaces would then open up on the back end of the waitlist.

4) Should the waitlist be turned off?

The current implementation model is that we will turn off the waitlist just before the beginning of the semester, so that during the beginning of the semester, the only way to add a course would be the older way of getting the instructor to add the student. In the interest of a plain vanilla implementation on a quick timeframe, we are fine with this plan for the first semester. But we think this decision ought to be revisited after we do this the first time in Fall 2011.

5) Can the waitlist be prioritized?

In the current programming model, the waitlist is simply first-come, first-served. The problem with that is that departments may have legitimate reasons for wanting certain categories of students to get into a class instead of others: if a class is required for a major, particularly if it is a key pre-req, one can imagine wanting those majors to get into a course ahead of students for whom it is a elective. We would like to see if the capability of prioritizing the waitlist can be added in future semesters to handle such situations.
6) Issues of communication

The current implementation plan may be confusing for students, and change is always confusing, so it is very important that the communication of these issues to students and faculty have input from Academic Affairs and not just come directly from Banner.

VCAA’s Response to CAPP’s Questions

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