MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Cooney, Chair
Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Reed Dasenbrock
Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Registration Waitlisting

As you will remember, we became aware last year that Banner had the capability of electronically waitlisting students for full classes that had never been enabled or implemented. After a technical working group looked at how this could be implemented, OVCAA consulted with the Senate on aspects of the implementation, with the clear understanding that initially this would be a ‘plain vanilla’ implementation with the possibility of additional changes/enhancements downstream.

My understanding is that the initial implementation on the basis we all agreed went extremely well, and that faculty and students alike appreciate the new system. There has been discussion about the possibility of two changes to the system. Both would require Banner programming, and therefore represent an investment of time and money. Before I ask the Banner team to address either possibility, I would like to know if the faculty are in favor of either possibility. I don’t yet know how possible either is, nor can I predict a timetable: I’d like the consultation with the Faculty to come first, and then we can explore the possibilities that we agree that we want to explore.

The first issue is prioritizing the waitlist. Currently, it is first-come/first-served. The deans definitely feel that the task of addressing course pressure points and moving students through their curricular requirements to graduation would be made easier if the list could be prioritized according to whether a course was a requirement for the student as opposed to an elective. There has been some discussion about other possible prioritization: should we give graduating seniors priority over students who have more time to take a course? Conversely, should we give freshmen priority? The question now is not what prioritization scheme would be endorsed; it is rather whether we should ask the Banner team to explore the technical feasibility of prioritizing the waitlist in some way in addition to first-come/first-served. My recommendation is that we do this.

The second issue is when the waitlist gets turned off. In our implementation for 2011-2012, the waitlist is being turned off a couple of days before the semester starts. There are some technical reasons having to do with how business operations work (students paying tuition)
that made this the logical way to start. But in an ideal world, business models support academic decisions, they don't preempt them. Do the faculty wish waitlisting to continue throughout the period in which students can add courses or do they prefer the current system in which it is not operable once the semester starts? I don't have a personal opinion on this one: this touches the faculty quite directly, so this is a matter on which I believe faculty preference ought to be decisive.

I think this memorandum tells you everything I know about this matter, but if the SEC or the relevant faculty committee (CAPP, I assume) wanted more information, let me know and I'll find out who has the answers.