

## Course Waitlist Concerns and Suggestions

The following concerns regarding the course waitlist have been identified by members of the College Academic Senate.

- When a student is unsure of his or her place on a waitlist, that student has no way of knowing how likely or unlikely he or she is to get a spot in that section. Uncertainty can cause a student to stay on a list of a section that has a more desirable meeting time but a very long waitlist rather than enrolling in another section with a short or no waitlist.
- Students and faculty alike are unsure when the waitlist period ends and the list is purged.
- When the waitlist ends, the section then becomes “first come, first served.” All of those students who spent time on the waitlist must then compete with other students to add the section or convince a faculty member to complete an add-a-seat form.
- Some faculty and administrators are confused about the post-waitlist period and if priority must be given to formerly waitlisted students or if faculty still have the ability to utilize add-a-seat forms.

The following suggestions to address these concerns have been made by members of the College Academic Senate.

- If the administration is concerned that informing a student of his or her place on the waitlist could create confusion when the administration has to move positions around to correct college errors, a statement could be added to the site warning students of the occasional need to adjust the list in response to college error.
- If the administration does not want to provide a student with his or her exact place on a waitlist, it could create a “greater than spot 5” or “there are more than 10 students ahead of you” indicator instead.
- Provide students, faculty, and administrators with more information and clearer instructions in relation to the above concerns.