The UAG reviewed four tools that have the potential for integration into NYU Classes, discussed priorities at its meeting of 4/14/16, and ranked priorities after a survey of UAG members as follows:

1. University of Dayton-developed Sakai Attendance Tool. Average place: 1.8 of 4
2. MediaSite. Average place: 2.5 out of 4
3-4. Cerego and/ExamSoft (tied). Average place: 2.9 out of 4

14 members voted in the survey; discussion notes for each tool can be found in the UAG Executive Committee’s Meeting Notes, and further information in the UAG Product Review spreadsheet. Notes on each tool:

University of Dayton-developed Sakai Attendance Tool

This is a light and easy-to-use tool that has been developed and piloted at the University of Dayton to meet a need that exists across all NYU units - taking attendance - and is native to Sakai (though not yet part of the base code). While it does not meet all the needs we have articulated around taking attendance, it goes about as far toward meeting them as a non-hardware solution could do (and, of course, there is currently no attendance tool of any kind). It was a definitive choice as highest priority in the UAG survey, receiving 8 first-priority votes out of 14 cast, twice as many as the next highest tool. The UAG recommends to the LMS/iCMS that it be made the first priority for summer integration work. It further suggests that the tool be made available in pilot to all faculty using NYU Classes, rather than being restricted to any particular units (with some modest support, such as a K-base article). Since the tool would be integrated fully with the Sakai instance, there are no significant issues of data interoperability or migration.

MediaSite

MediaSite is a lecture-capture tool that is currently in pilot at Stern; it found MediaSite to offer a richer feature set than Echo360, which it had used for five years. The UAG recommends that MediaSite be integrated in limited pilot with interested units (tool use requires the involvement of a support team). The needs for lecture capture differ considerably from unit to unit, and the UAG has not yet explored all the possible options for lecture capture or developed a University-wide statement of user needs. Reactions to MediaSite varied greatly, with as many members indicating that they thought it should be the lowest priority for integration as indicated it should be the highest. Indeed, MediaSite, Cerego, and ExamSoft all had roughly equal support, with the Attendance tool standing clearly above all three. Since the broadcast file format for MediaSite is a widely used standard (mp4), migration to another platform, should that become necessary in the future, might not be difficult (though this bears some technical review). Stern is already using MediaSite through an integration with Classes. MediaSite is LTI-compliant.
Cerego

Cerego is an innovative tool for supporting instructors in reinforcing learning and retaining facts; its AI prompts students to re-test themselves at intervals that best facilitate retention of materials. Dental has used Cerego to help students retain material for certification exams and was very pleased with the results (students had a 100% pass rate on the dental anatomy review exam). There appear to be no really similar tools currently on the market. **The UAG recommends that Cerego be integrated for limited pilot across a broad range of NYU Schools.** Since every school relies on students acquiring some amount of factual knowledge, Cerego could have the broadest use of any of these tools, aside from the Attendance tool; however, most units saw it as something of an add-on (it received 6 second-place votes, the most of any tool, but no first-place votes). IT should examine data fungibility and ease of any future migration before proceeding. (Cerego is LTI-compliant, but has not previously been integrated with Sakai).

ExamSoft

ExamSoft is a tool for allowing in-person, high-stakes testing that has been piloted at Nursing. Essentially, it locks down all other programs on a student's computer during the testing period (which is set by a begin time and test length; one of the program’s limitations is that it cannot automatically cut off a student's access to the exam at a given clock time should he or she arrive late). **The UAG recommends that ExamSoft be integrated in a pilot limited to interested schools.** These are likely to be fewer in number than for Cerego; schools should know that this is not a tool that an instructor can use successfully without in-class support from instructional technologists; it could thus be useful only for a limited number of high-stakes tests (it also has no real application to online courses at present). Because the test results are delivered to the instructor, there would be little problem in switching to a new system in the future should better testing software become available.