Dean Jaffe shared with DCC members the issues regarding implementation of the CARS recommendation that we enable “dual course listing,” whereby a given course could be simultaneously listed with two (or possibly more) different course codes in different departments. CARS recommended this change to facilitate sharing of resources and elimination of potential duplication without having to resolve which of multiple “owners” of a given course should retain the course in their domain. Mapping a set of codes that record the “unique” entity of a course for registrarial purposes (course audits, room scheduling, etc), while enabling the course to be listed with different course abbreviations in the course schedule and on transcripts is a solvable programming problem, but not one that the university can expect LTS to be able to address in the near future, given the constraints of reduced LTS staffing due to budget cuts.

Dean Jaffe met with Mark Hewitt, University Registrar and interested faculty to discuss the goals of dual listing and other means of achieving these goals. Dual listing would not replace still valuable cross-listing, but would be used for only a relatively small number of courses, which equally “belong” to more than one department or program. Dual listing enables greater resource-sharing and reduced course duplication, and more accurately reflects the character of these courses to students during the enrollment period, and to readers of transcripts.

Some courses already have course abbreviations that indicate their relationship to more than one program (NBIO and NPSY for courses linked to Neuroscience; RECS, FECS and GECS for Russian, French, and German literature courses taught in English which count toward majors of Language and Literature programs and the European Cultural Studies program). We could expand the number of these course abbreviations, using up to eight characters including a slash (e.g., ANTH/SOC), without needing the assistance of LTS.

The Dean will discuss these options with chairs of interdepartmental programs and departments at upcoming meetings, with the goal of achieving a system as conducive as possible to sharing of resources. The role of affiliated faculty and the constitution of curriculum committees for interdepartmental programs will also be clarified at the meetings with interdepartmental program chairs.