

Micro-Credentialing Implementation Work Group – Policy, Tuition & Financial Aid

Minutes of July 24, 2018 Meeting

Attendees: Cynthia Proctor, Sandra Casey, Jessica Dawkins, Fred Hildebrand, Gwen Kay, Debbie Moeckel, Kate Schiefen, Nina Tamrowski, Erika Terwilliger

- A. After initial introductions, the working group received an overview of the other two active implementation teams: data and reporting, and transferability and portability. They heard a description of the work completed by the FACT2 Advisory Group (an academic quality rubric and an updated literature review on micro-credentials). The group discussed the importance of staying informed of the efforts of the other working groups.
- B. The working group discussed and then agreed to expand its charge as outlined below:
- 1) To conduct a review of SUNY policies identified by the Task Force that may need to be revised in order to support campus efforts on micro-credentials and to engage in a formal process of policy revision as appropriate.
 - 2) To provide additional guidance related to tuition and fees, and also financial aid.
 - 3) To review and issue guidance regarding the awarding of micro-credentials by System Administration offices/entities to ensure alignment with the policy.
- C. The group then reviewed the charge in more detail, beginning to set a course of action:
- Regarding 1305 Credit/Contact Hour - The policy is centered on the framework of the Carnegie Unit and time. The Micro-Credentialing Task Force suggested that possible revisions for consideration would be the introduction of language on learning outcomes and competencies as a function of the awarding of credit.

The group agreed that this policy would benefit from modification. Modifications would not remove reference to use of the Carnegie Unit (reaffirmed at the Federal and State levels), but would add necessary language regarding the importance of learning outcomes and competencies, key to SUNY's micro-credential policy and also the applied learning initiative. Policy language would be reviewed for clarity around calculation of time and other possible updates.

It was also noted that the University Faculty Senate had done a review of this policy in 2008; information the group wanted to locate.

The group recommended a smaller subgroup, with additional faculty and campus representation should work to revise the document for consideration by the working group and then broader University-wide review.

- 1301 Continuing Education Unit - Possible revisions recommended by the Micro-credentialing Task Force included the introduction of language that CEUs and other credentials be vetted through the awarding institutions' shared governance process in order to enable the creation and conferral of micro-credentials that award CEUs as well as college credit.

The group discussed how a micro-credential could be used to award CEUs in the professions.

The working group decided that additional research was necessary in order to determine whether or not the policy required modification.

Dr. Moeckel said that she would review the matter and bring a recommendation back to the group.

- MTP 13-3 Seamless Transfer - Possible revisions recommended by the Micro-Credentialing Task Force included the addition of language to specifically note what the Provost has already indicated; that transferring of for-credit or noncredit micro-credentials follows *SUNY Policy 1008 Transfer and Articulation* and *MTP 13-3 Seamless Transfer*.

After discussion, the group decided that credit based micro-credentials were clearly covered by the current seamless transfer policy and that modification to the MTP was likely not necessary.

The group discussed non-credit to credit pathways and noted that the transferability of this work might be better addressed by the review and revision of policy 1300, Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation.

- 1300 Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation – As prior learning assessment can be used to evaluate learning acquired through micro-credentials not already assessed for college credit, the Micro-Credentialing Task Force reviewed the Report of the SUNY TAACCT Grant Prior Learning Assessment Advisory Board and found several of relevant recommendations. The Task Force recommends that this report be assessed and reviewed via a formal policy review process.

The working group discussed this carefully and suggested that a subcommittee, to include additional campus/governance representation, be established that would review the final recommendations of the TAACCT report and also conduct additional research to begin the process of modifying policy 1300.

As noted above, non-credit to credit pathways would also be addressed as part of this policy revision.

- D. The working group discussed the fact that the report of the Micro-Credentialing Task Force was clear in indicating that cost and financial aid eligibility of micro-credentials must be clearly communicated to students and included in marketing efforts. However, the report did not offer specific guidance regarding setting tuition and/or applicability of financial aid.

Ms. Terwilliger provided an overview of the financial aid process. The group discussed tuition

and fee policies. Ms. Terwilliger will prepare a guidance document for campuses and share it with relevant stakeholders and the working group for review.

- E. The working group then discussed the need to ensure that micro-credentials offered by SUNY System offices or entities aligned to the SUNY definition of micro-credentials, including going through a faculty governance process.

The group spent some time discussing possible options for engaging governance, including: establishing a U-wide governance body that would review the credentials; asking for representatives from three or four campus governance bodies to work together to review the credentials; and encouraging a partnership with a specific campus.

As an initial step, Ms. Proctor will collect information on which entities are currently offering or hope to offer badges and bring it back to the group for review.

- F. The Committee then discussed next steps and timeline.

Ms. Proctor will put together a proposed schedule for review to allow for the working group to be prepared to share an update with the SUNY Trustees by November. It is anticipated that by November, the two subgroups to review policies 1300 and 1305 will be established and have met twice; the research will have been completed re: whether or not revision to 1300 is necessary and if so, the subgroup will be established; the tuition/financial aid guidance document will have been completed and shared with campuses; and a proposal will have been developed for System Administration entities/office around micro-credentialing.