

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

Minutes of August 28, 2018 Meeting

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

- A. Ms. Proctor providing an overview of new developments at SUNY and nationally in the micro-credentialing arena. Credly has partnered with The Education Lab to engage University partners in offering what they describe as 21st Century Skills (essential skills, soft skills) badges. Portfolium has partnered with the University System of Maryland to offer what they call “Badging Essential Skills for Transitions (B.E.S.T.)” badges, also focused on soft skills. She shared feedback from the Business Council of New York State panel discussion on student success in which she presented SUNY’s micro-credential policy. She reported that the business community was very receptive to SUNY’s efforts and interested in learning more, particularly as providing in-house training, professional development, up-skilling, is becoming increasingly challenging. They would be interested in learning how SUNY might be able to use micro-credentials to help address that challenge. Ms. Proctor provided local Chamber representatives with contact information for the micro-credentialing leads are their area SUNY campuses.
- B. The working group approved the minutes from the last meeting.
- C. The group discussed a draft Financial Aid Guidance Document prepared by Ms. Terwilliger. They felt that this was a great first start to be followed by additional guidance/resources, including as it relates to tuition and fees for non-credit micro-credentials.
- D. Dr. Moeckel provided an overview of her research on SUNY Policy 1301, the Continuing Education Unit. She reported that SUNY’s policy continues to be consistent with (and in fact is based on) the acknowledged source of standards for awarding CEUs, the International Association for Continuing Education and Training. She noted as well that Individual program disciplines also have specific requirements regarding CEUs, set by NYSED. She recommended that no amendments were needed to this policy at this time. The working group will review the recommendation and related web links shared by Dr. Moeckel.
- E. The group next discussed the plan for review and amendment of SUNY Policy 1300 Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Subcommittee. It was unanimously agreed to move forward with a review and modification process that would result in a revised draft policy recommendation to the Provost, follow an open comment period and be revised as appropriate, before creating a final draft for the SUNY Trustees to consider. Dr. Travers will chair a subcommittee of the working group to lead this effort, assisted by a designee from

the University Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and fellow working group member Dr. Hildebrand.

- F. The group next discussed Policy 1305, Credit/Contact Hour. It was unanimously agreed to move forward with a review and modification process that would result in a revised draft policy recommendation to the Provost, follow an open comment period and be revised as appropriate, before creating a final draft for the SUNY Trustees to consider. Dr. Schiefen will chair a subcommittee of the working group to lead this effort, assisted by a designee from the University Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and Assistant Provost Kris Bendikas.

Note that both subgroups committed to moving forward quickly; anticipating three-four meetings. The goal is to have each group meet (virtually or in person) twice by November to be able to have an update report available for the November SUNY Trustees meeting.

- G. Ms. Proctor then shared with the Committee a summary of badging underway by System Administration entities. The group discussed the wide range of ways in which badges were being used. These efforts largely began long before the January 2018 policy was adopted or envisioned. There was a discussion about whether or not the issuer of the badges was listed as SUNY or SUNY System Administration. Ms. Proctor will research further. There was a discussion about making a distinction between certain types of badges and a micro-credential and efforts to build a brand around high-quality micro-credentials that are reflective of student learning, with learning outcomes, assessments, and links to student work.