



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Undergraduate Programs and Policies Committee
RE: Resolution: Support for Microcredentials
DATE: 20-21 October 2023
LOCATION: SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY
RESOLUTION #: 195-01-1
VOTE: For: 43 / Against: 2

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS SUNY has increased the number of Microcredentials with 530 Microcredentials at 37 campuses as of fall of 2023; and

WHEREAS as highlighted in the recent Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment rule on 10/10/2023 by the Department of Education, for students who are not registered in a degree program or certificate, the cost of Microcredentials is not universally covered by financial aid, creating an equitable access concern; and

WHEREAS The Microcredential Advisory Board, established in Spring of 2023 with collaboration from UFS and other SUNY stakeholders, was charged as follows, "The Microcredential Advisory Group will make recommendations and share best practices in support the strategic growth of SUNY's growing Microcredentials program. Consistent with the SUNY Trustees' Microcredentials policy framework, outlined goals for 2030, and Chancellor priorities, there will be a particular focus on increasing microcredentials that provide workforce ready skills, knowledge, and expertise, and provide pathways to certificates and degrees. These recommendations will support quality development of microcredentials on individual campuses as well as an efficient response protocol to regional/state-wide requests/opportunities for multi-campus Microcredentials offerings. Recommendations should further SUNY's role as a state, national and international leader in microcredentials. In the course of its work, this group may recommend updates/expansion/refinement of SUNY's formal Microcredentials documentation;" and

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate (UFS) encourages the SUNY Provost's Office to provide continued support of shared



governance around the development of the Microcredentials program and collaboration of the Microcredential advisory board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UFS urges the Microcredential advisory board to investigate the issue of equitable access for students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UFS strongly recommends the Microcredential advisory board to conduct an assessment of the usability of these credentials and the reception of these credentials in the workforce.

FURTHERMORE LET IT BE KNOWN that the UFS recognizes the hard work on and developments of the Microcredentials program performed by the SUNY Office of the Provost, namely the Director of Communications and Academic Policy Development, Ms. Cynthia Proctor. UFS applauds and supports the development of Microcredentials programs throughout the SUNY system. UFS supports continued efforts to make access to Microcredentials programs as equitable as possible.