

MEMORANDUM

TO: Andy Mattson, Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Frank Sanacory, Chair, CAP Committee

SUBJECT: Micro-credentials

DATE: March 9th, 2018

The SUNY Micro-Credentialing Task Force has issued its “Report and Recommendations” in January 2018. Since then the CAP committee has received a proposal for a micro-credential from the SPS (i.e., a proposal for a Badge in Non-Profit Management). For that reason CAP is seeking guidance from the Faculty Senate.

The main questions being:

- Should we at the College of Old Westbury offer micro-credentials?
- If we offer micro-credentials, in what form?
- What would be their approval processes and oversight procedures?

We ask that the Faculty Senate review and offer suggestions to these questions for our College through a committee or a taskforce being inclusive of stakeholders. For example academic units and the registrar should be included in the discussion.

If micro-credentials do become an offering at the College at Old Westbury, it is CAP’s opinion that they should go through a similar approval process as a minor that includes the CAP committee and the Faculty Senate.

CAP and visitors to CAP at the March 9th, 2018 CAP meeting had a discussion about the direction of the possibility of these micro-credentials and had many questions, comments or concerns.

- How do micro-credentials relate to the mission of the college?
 - Our College Mission states “dynamic and diverse public liberal arts college”
 - Our College Vision Statement includes “offering quality undergraduate and graduate degrees.”
 - If we move toward many sections of adjunct taught courses, how does this support social justice?
- How do we handle

- Credit versus non-credit
 - Curricular versus co-curricular
- Is financial Aid available for these courses or credentials?
- What form do these credentials take? Are they available for non-matriculating students?
 - There are graduate micro-credentials (for example: graduate badges at Stony Brook) which seemed reasonable to some, but should we allow undergraduate micro-credentials?
 - Micro-credentials may seem more obvious to for some disciplines over others, especially at the graduate level and may be less obvious at the undergraduate level.
 - Which disciplines at Old Westbury would want to pursue such micro-credentials?
 - If we allow undergraduate micro-credentials should we require that they are connected to a Bachelor's Degree program (that is similar to a minor without devaluing any minor offerings)?
 - How do we manage the potential of micro-credentials competing with minors? How can we support micro-credentials to become stacked into minors, and subsequently majors?
- What is the viability of running more programs here at Old Westbury?
 - Sufficient enrollment for these courses
 - Would micro-credential further increase student enrollment?
 - Strain on staffing and on academic resources
 - How would this affect faculty teaching loads?
- Would a student's transcript list three micro-credentials and a minor where the three micro-credentials would be stacked to for the minor? Will this lead to a more seamless or perhaps more confusing transcript?
- Do we want digital badges? What are their costs and to manage?
- Can we use micro-credentials as a method to reach out to community partners?
 - Can we develop a micro-credential with a community partner in mind such as a non-profit organization?
 - What are the dangers of tying a program to an external partner? Does it present a potential conflict of interest? Could procedures be put in place to avoid such issues to support the development of micro-credentials?
- Some noted that these micro-credentials could be used as a recruitment tool for graduate programs.
- Are there any data that would suggest microcredentials are helpful for students in terms of gaining employment, graduate school entrance/acceptance, etc?