

May 23, 2022

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**Proposal for  
A Process for Temporary Approval of Microcredentials  
Approved by Faculty Senate on June 14, 2022**

Whereas: Microcredentials comprise relevant, high-quality market-aligned short units of learning and offer pathways to achieve affordable, accessible, focused and immediately acknowledged learning opportunities. Microcredential offerings can be credit bearing or noncredit bearing and have the following characteristics:

- focused on learners, based on their interests, needs, skills and career goals;
- awarded based on demonstrated skill or competency in a specific area(s);
- developed, approved, and endorsed by the university;
- gained in a shorter or more flexible time period;
- stand-alone or stackable, with stackable offerings combined to count toward a higher education qualification (e.g., certificate, degree, etc.).

Whereas: Microcredentials provide a way to help our students document skills that employers value; and

Whereas: Microcredentials can help support economic development in Kansas by providing essential education at the speed required by business and industry; and

Whereas: Microcredentials provide an opportunity to draw working professionals back to the university; and

Whereas: Several pilot microcredentials are ready to run for Fall 2022; and

Whereas: The working group on microcredential policy has draft policies for the management and approval of microcredentials; and

Whereas: The working group on microcredential policy would like to see the outcomes of the pilot projects before finalizing the draft policies for submission to Faculty Senate;

Faculty Senate authorizes the following temporary approval process:

Microcredentials of less than 12 credit hours may be approved for the 2022-2023 academic year by the joint agreement of the Faculty Senate President, either or both co-chairs of the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee (depending on availability), the Dean of Global Campus, and, for graduate microcredentials, the Dean of the Graduate School. This temporary approval will expire at the start of the Fall 2023 semester.