1.0 Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. Rafat Alam, AGC Vice-Chair, acknowledged that this would be Peter Geller, Academic Governance Officer’s, last AGC meeting at MacEwan University. R. Alam thanked Dr Geller for his help in establishing the Academic Governance Council and for all his work in academic governance at the University.

2.0 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda
The following items were approved on the consent agenda:
- 2.1 AGC Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2012
- 2.2 Executive Committee Minutes: December 16, 2011
- 2.4 Faculty Evaluation Committee Pilot Study on Releasing Student Feedback
- 2.6 Faculty Standards Committee Update

It was requested that items 2.3 Nominations Committee Report and 2.5 Senior Appointments Advisory Committees be moved to the main agenda for discussion.

AGC-01-03-13-2012
Moved by D. Higgins, seconded by T. Costouros THAT Academic Governance Council approve the agenda for March 13, 2012 and the items on the consent agenda as amended.
Carried
2.3 Nominations Committee Report
Chris Hancock, Nominations Committee Chair, amended the Nominations Committee Report by removing Claudio Fernandez, student member from the Advisory Committee for the Appointment of Associate Vice-President Enrolment Management Planning and Retention Student Services. It was explained that C. Fernandez withdrew his membership due to scheduling conflicts.

2.5 Senior Appointments Advisory Committees
It was requested that the composition of future senior appointment advisory committees include a balance of faculty members with non-faculty members.

3.0 Report of the President
David Atkinson, President of Grant MacEwan University, was not able to attend the March 13, 2012 AGC meeting so no report was made.

4.0 Board of Governors Report
The Board report for February, 2012 was included in the March 13, 2012 AGC meeting package.

5.0 Report of the Provost and Executive Vice President Academic
Janet Paterson-Weir, Provost and Executive Vice President Academic, reported on the following:
- A summary of the Grant MacEwan University Enrolment Plan 2012-13 was distributed to members for information.
- A diagram of Changes to Implementation for C1010 (Program Approvals and Changes) was given to members for information.

6.0 New Business
6.1 Academic Awards
Mike Sekulic, University Registrar, presented the draft Terms of Reference for the President's Medal for Academic Excellence and Student Leadership and the Deans Medals for Academic Excellence for discussion. The awards will recognize and celebrate student achievement at MacEwan University. The following points were raised during discussion:
- The question of whether Grade Point Average (GPA) or Graduating GPA should be used to assess students' academic record was raised.
  - For the Deans Medals, it was suggested that a GPA of 3.7 be the minimum.
- Regarding whether to only give the awards at Spring convocation, it was pointed out that some programs finish at the end of August and those students then graduate in the fall. It was suggested that these students would be eligible for medals but would receive them the following spring.
- Concern was raised regarding the short timeline for development of the awards. It was suggested that consideration be given to implementation in 2013.
- The question was raised whether only full-time students would be eligible for the awards since one of the criteria suggested to assess candidates is load based GPAs. It was noted that students with disabilities and international students often have reduced course loads which would put them at a disadvantage if course load was one of the criteria.

M. Sekulic said that these points would be reviewed for possible revisions to the Terms of Reference before being presented at the April AGC meeting.

7.0 Committee Reports
7.1 Executive Committee
7.1.1 AGC Review
Rafat Alam, AGC Vice-Chair, reported on behalf of the AGC Executive Committee that the review of the
AGC Bylaws and Mandate will be deferred due to the implementation of the new Faculty/School Councils structure. The Executive Committee will consider the review again in Fall 2012.

7.2 MacEwan Curriculum Committee

7.2.1 Design Studies Diploma; Program Change; Suspension of Majors; and Suspension of Design Foundations Certificate

Bill Richards, MacEwan Curriculum Committee Vice-Chair, presented the proposal to approve curriculum changes to the Design Studies diploma program; the suspension of the Digital Media, Illustration, and Photography Majors in Design Studies diploma program; and the suspension of the Design Foundations certificate. The following points arose during discussion:

- The proposed suspensions would help the department to create a 3 year Design diploma to better align with students’ and industry’s requirements.
- In response to the question that with the suspension of the Design Foundations certificate, does this mean that the Design program is working toward a 4 year degree, it was explained that this is not in the immediate plans, but could be a possibility down the road.
- In reply to the question of if, rather than suspending the diploma program, making the program into a post-graduate certificate had been considered, it was explained that this had been discussed but it was not congruent with the traditional market.
- A concern was raised that the amount of liberal arts credits required for the diploma would not sufficiently align with external accreditation bodies such as the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. Denise Roy, Dean, Centre for the Arts and Communications, explained that the amount of credits was sufficient for a diploma program.
- Regarding the admissions standards and laddering requirements, a concern was raised that there is not enough consistency at the University in general and that AGC and MCC should address this. Specifically, there are differences between admission requirements for degree and diploma programs - this may need to be addressed at an institutional level.

AGC-02-03-13-2012

Moved by R. Ginther, seconded by M. Milner

1. THAT the Academic Governance Council approve curriculum changes to the Design Studies diploma program effective September 1, 2013, as recommended by the MacEwan Curriculum Committee (13 February 2012) as presented in Agenda Item 7.2.1; and

2. THAT the Academic Governance Council approve the suspension of the Digital Media, Illustration, and Photography Majors, Design Studies diploma program effective May 1, 2014, with the intention of closing these Majors, as recommended by the MacEwan Curriculum Committee (13 February 2012) as presented in Agenda Item 7.2.1; and

3. THAT the Academic Governance Council approve the suspension of the Design Foundations certificate effective May 1, 2012, with the intention of closure, as recommended by the MacEwan Curriculum Committee (13 February 2012) as presented in Agenda Item 7.2.1.

Carried

7.3 Admissions and Selections Committee

7.3.1 Arts and Cultural Management Admission Criteria

Mike Sekulic, Admissions and Selections Committee Chair, presented the changes to the Arts and Cultural Management Admission Criteria for decision. The Committee had looked closely at the aspect of perceived fairness of the program’s admission criteria and the changes made should result in a more fair and equitable admission process. The following points arose during discussion:
• The math requirements did not reflect the new Alberta high school curriculum. It was requested that this be amended to reflect the global change presented at the November 2010 AGC meeting.
• The changes to the age of mature status for Alberta high school being raised from 19 to 21, should be taken into consideration for mature status at the University.
• A review of the Regular Admission criteria was suggested as those applicants with level 30 high school course grade requirements which seem to be more stringent than those applicants with just a diploma.

It was agreed to amend the math requirements to reflect the global changes to the Alberta high school curriculum.

AGC-03-03-13-2012
Moved by C. Blatz, seconded by D. Roy THAT the Academic Governance Council approve the changes to the admission criteria for the Arts and Cultural Management Diploma Program, effective for the Fall 2013 intake of the program, as recommended by the Admissions and Selections Committee February 15, 2012, as amended in Agenda Item 7.3.1.

Carried

7.3.2 Fine Arts Admission Criteria
Mike Sekulic, Admissions and Selections Committee Chair, presented the changes to the Fine Arts Admission Criteria for decision. The Committee had revised the Other Admission Criteria section to make it more relevant to applicants. Concern was raised that the question for the statement of intent which students include in their applications was too generic.

AGC-04-03-13-2012
Moved by D. Roy, seconded by J. Stock THAT Academic Governance Council approve the changes to the admission criteria for the Fine Arts Program, effective for the Fall 2013 intake of the program, as recommended by the Admissions and Selections Committee February 15, 2012, as presented in Agenda Item 7.3.2.

Carried

7.3.3 Bachelor of Applied Business – Accounting Admission Criteria
Mike Sekulic, Admissions and Selections Committee Chair, presented the changes to the Bachelor of Applied Business – Accounting Admission Criteria for decision. The Council requested that the Criteria be sent back to the Committee to revise the Regular Admission category to align the GPA requirements of the two applicant paths.

AGC-05-03-13-2012
Moved by J. Boulay, seconded by J. Stock THAT Academic Governance Council refer Bachelor of Applied Business - Accounting Admission Criteria back to Admissions and Selections Committee.

Carried

7.4 Academic Policies Committee
7.4.1 Policy C1000: Academic Integrity
Robert Irwin, Academic Policies Committee member, presented revisions to Policy C1000: Academic Integrity for decision. It was noted that the Policy had been brought forward at the October 2011 AGC meeting and had been referred back to APC for further revision. AGC reviewed the revised Policy and requested the following further revisions:
• Section 7.15, “The Academic Integrity Officer has the authority to reject frivolous or groundless appeals” be amended as follows: “The Academic Integrity Officer has the authority to reject appeals which do not meet the requirements as outline in E3103: Student Appeals policy.”
The first bullet of section 4.4: “Making all reasonable efforts to ensure all members of their Faculties/Schools are familiar with this policy and the procedures therein.”

Section 6.4: remove the last sentence: “Withdrawals are only acceptable given the withdrawal dates as indicated in the academic schedule.”

The following points arose during discussion of clause 8.1, regarding the expungement of transcripts and records of incidents of academic dishonesty:

- That the process is not currently automated – students must request expungement of those records.
- The 24 month time frame for eligibility of expungement of the records seemed short.
  - It was explained that this was to offer a second chance to students, not to protect those students who might reoffend.

AGC-06-03-13-2012
Moved by J. Stock  seconded by, W. Belton THAT section 7.15 of Policy C1000: Academic Integrity be amended based on discussion at Academic Governance Council.
Carried

AGC-07-03-13-2012
Moved by D. Higgins, seconded by D. McFadyen THAT upon approval of Policy C1000: Academic Integrity, that clause 8.1 be returned to Academic Policies Committee for revision based on discussion at Academic Governance Council.
Carried

AGC-08-03-13-2012
Moved by M. Milner, seconded by T. Costouros THAT Academic Governance Council approve the Policy C1000: Academic Integrity, effective July 1, 2012, as recommended by the Academic Policies Committee, February 7, 2012, as amended in Agenda Item 7.4.1.
Carried

7.4.2 Policy C1035: Repeating Courses
Robert Irwin, Academic Policies Committee member, presented revisions to Policy C1035: Repeating Courses for decision. AGC members discussed section 4.3, which explains that when a course is repeated the best grade will appear on the transcript. The question of whether the section should be changed from best grade to blended grade was discussed. It was agreed to keep the current best grade wording.

AGC-09-03-13-2012
Moved by R. Irwin, seconded by, D. Higgins THAT Academic Governance Council approve the Policy C1035: Repeating Credit Courses at MacEwan University, effective September 1, 2012, as recommended by the Academic Policies Committee, February 7, 2012, as presented in Agenda Item 7.4.2.
Carried
7.4.3 Policy C2030: Inter-Institutional Transferability
Robert Irwin, Academic Policies Committee member, presented revisions to Policy C2030: Inter-Institutional Transferability for decision. Clarification was requested for section 4.2.1.1 regarding concrete timelines for the evaluation and assessment of a transfer credit. It was explained that there are many variables when assessing transfer credits, that the time needed to assess differs from case to case and so it would not be advisable to have a defined timeline written in the Policy.

AGC-10-03-13-2012
Moved by J. Stock, seconded by, D. Higgins THAT Academic Governance Council approve the Policy C2030 Inter-Institutional Transferability, effective September 1, 2012, as recommended by the Academic Policies Committee (February 7, 2012), as presented in Agenda Item 7.4.3.
Carried

7.4.4 Policy C2065: Co-operative Education
Robert Irwin, Academic Policies Committee member, presented revisions to Policy C2065: Co-operative Education for decision.

AGC-11-03-13-2012
Moved by K. Hood, seconded by, C. Maykut THAT Academic Governance Council approve the Policy C2065: Cooperative Education, effective July 1, 2012, as recommended by the Academic Policies Committee (February 7, 2012), as presented in Agenda Item 7.4.4.
Carried

7.4.5 Policy C3010: Academic Program Reviews
Robert Irwin, Academic Policies Committee member, presented revisions to Policy C3010: Academic Program Reviews for decision. The following points arose during discussion:
- Section 4.1.2, regarding Program/Department self-study teams, concern was raised that small certificate programs might not be able to meet the requirements of this section. It was explained that this matter had been discussed and that it was agreed that the Faculty would do this where the department was too small.
- Section 4.1.6 wording be changed from “is responsible for overseeing the Academic Program Review Process…” to “is responsible for facilitating the Academic Program Review Process …”.

AGC-12-03-13-2012
Moved by D. Roy, seconded by, L. Blyth THAT Academic Governance Council approve the Policy C3010 Academic Program Review, effective July 1, 2012, as recommended by the Academic Policies Committee (February 7, 2012), as amended in Agenda Item 7.4.5.
Carried

8.0 Question Period
It was requested that the 2012-2013 AGC meeting schedule include a meeting at South Campus. The AGC Secretariat agreed to hold an AGC meeting there in Spring 2013.

9.0 Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting – April 24, 2012 at South Campus

10.0 The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.