1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Agenda/Consent Agenda
Quorum was not met in order to present the agenda/consent agenda for approval. It was noted that agenda item “1.1 2016-12 Course Designation Submission to AGC” was approved through the Faculty Council Curriculum Committee and the Executive Committee on December 1, 2016 and subsequently passed through AGC on January 24, 2017 without delay.

3.0 Dean’s Report
Margaret Milner asked about the Indigenous Initiatives recommendation. See 5.0 Indigenous Initiatives Update.

4.0 Open Education Resources – Katelyn Garlough
Katelyn, VP Academic of SAMU, provided an overview of Open Education Resources (OERs) and the campaign advocating instructors use and review OERs. OERs are any type of learning materials that can be edited, approved and used in classrooms. They are free to use, open source and digital format. Open textbooks can be tailored to classrooms and allow the ability to pull from multiple sources. The benefits of using OERs include reducing costs, making resources more accessible to students, and encouraging knowledge sharing. Katelyn asked for feedback and noted that barriers with peer reviews are being addressed. They are looking for grants to support OERs and obtaining more resources for faculty to use and feel comfortable with OERs. OER week is going to be held at the end of March. Upcoming workshops will be available for faculty.

Discussed library information and resources including the e-reserve system.

5.0 Indigenous Initiatives Update – Margaret Milner
Margaret is member of the university Indigenous Initiatives working group. The goal of this group is to set up an advisory committee for the university targeting the end of March to have it in place. The group is reaching out to the community, elders, and others to build partnerships and determine who would be appropriate members of the advisory committee. There are challenges integrating indigenous knowledge into the curriculum, and also identifying faculty with indigenous backgrounds. Margaret stated there is a need to educate ourselves about the impact of the TRC in the indigenous community.

The working group has been performing an environmental scan across universities looking at the TRC. Other activities being considered include: identifying indigenous resources for the classroom, creating professional development opportunities for faculty, and adding human resources to do some of the work.

Discussed different potential approaches to integrating indigenous content into the curriculum (e.g. threading vs. creating specific courses). The suggestion was made to invite elders and others into forming a Faculty of Nursing steering committee. Margaret will bring this idea to the Indigenous Initiatives
working group to ensure it is in line with what the University as a whole is doing. The next steps will be to create an institutional plan and then engage faculty.

6.0 Library Subscription Cancellations – Sandy Stift
Sandy discussed the maintenance of information resources. Due to inflation, static budget, and exchange rates, the library is proceeding with cancelling some resources. They are looking at costs, usage, cost per usage, and cost overlap to reduce the impact on information resources as much as possible. Cancellations will likely touch all disciplines in some way, however, there will be opportunity for consultation and to provide input.

Discussed available access to resources at other institutions such as the article loan agreement with the University of Alberta, but noted that there are limitations.

A survey went out in partnership with other universities across Canada looking at journal usage versus what people think are the most important journals. Hoping that the results of the survey might influence some of the future direction of MacEwan. Faculty are reminded and encouraged to participate in the survey.

7.0 Institutional Repository – Robyn Hall
Robyn reviewed the institutional repository and encouraged faculty to submit information for their profiles. Contact Robyn Hall or Jody Nelson for additional information.

8.0 Request feedback for Sabbatical Leave Committee Terms of Reference and policy Sabbatical Leave D2080 – specifically should seeking credential completion be an acceptable reason for a sabbatical, and should the applications for sabbatical include annual performance evaluations? – Gail Couch
Gail is a member of the university Sabbatical Leave committee and in seeking feedback on the policy, it was suggested that perhaps sabbatical leaves should be separate from funded educational leaves and that funding should be prioritized. All the Faculties are very distinct from one another with differences in faculty and needs. The preference is to keep criteria open and maintain the clause that seeking credential completion is an acceptable reason for a sabbatical. It was recommended that annual reports be sufficient required documentation and that performance evaluations should not be mandatory.

9.0 AGC Committee Nominations – Brian Parker
A new, more transparent AGC committee nomination process is being introduced. The nominations are opening Spring 2017 and all who receive a ballot are encouraged to vote.

10.0 Questions/Discussion
Mike Sekulic mentioned that convocation is coming up in June and since it will be the last convocation with the president in attendance, the order of ceremonies will be modified -the Faculty of Nursing will swap days (ceremonies will be held in the morning on the Wednesday rather than the Thursday).

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 pm.