Policy: 1016
Procedure: Smudging/Pipe

Purpose and intent:
Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sage, sweetgrass and/or cedar. Sage smudge produces a strong and distinct aroma, however the smoke associated with smudge is minimal and lasts a short time. Sweetgrass has a mild aroma and produces even less smoke than sage. Cedar produces a mild aroma and also produces minimal smoke. Sage, sweetgrass and cedar are used primarily for purification and are used to help create a positive mind set.

Tobacco is used in pipe ceremonies by a pipe carrier. Tobacco smoke produces a mild to moderate aroma and is used primarily to bless others and self.

All smudging & pipe activities within the Native American Center (NAC) will be coordinated and approved through the Director of American Indian Student Services (AISS).

All smudging & pipe activities within McGill Hall will be coordinated and approved through the Administrative Associate Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Services (IERS).

In order to help facilitate support and understanding of these ceremonies, education classes will be scheduled through American Indian Student Services and delivered through the Native American Center.

Ceremony procedures:
Those who want to conduct a smudging/tobacco ceremony in one of the designated areas must request approval from the appropriate administrative office prior to activity.

Locations designated as the Native American Rotunda, Native American Center-classroom 105, McGill Hall-rooms 024 and 031, and student living spaces located on UM property, are approved locations for smudging/pipe ceremonies. American Indian Student Services will approve activities within the Native American Center and the Administrative Associate Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Services will approve activities in McGill Hall.

In order to reduce the number of inquiries regarding the smell of smoke, notification should be posted and an email sent to building occupants with a phone number to contact, when smudging and/or pipe ceremonies are to occur.

A sign shall be placed on the door of each designated room indicating the area is a permanent smudging/pipe ceremony location and will provide contact information. An ‘In Use’ sign shall be posted on the door when in use. Signs will be available through the appropriate administrative office. The sign shall remain posted until the smudge/tobacco smoke has dissipated.

Residence Halls, University and Lewis and Clark Villages procedures:
Any person wishing to smudge within the residence halls must request approval prior to activity from the Director of Residence Life or the Director’s designee.

Revised 03/2016
Only approved receptacles can be used and an ‘In Use’ sign will be posted on the individual’s door. After the smoke and smell dissipates, the sign may be removed.

**Approved burning receptacles**
A large shell or fire proof pan can be used to burn the sage, cedar and sweet grass. Any receptacle outside of this perimeter will need to be approved by the appropriate administrative office.

**Facilities standard**
Ceremonial locations shall be periodically inspected by Facilities Services to insure appropriate ventilation, smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers are available and in working condition.

**Emergency contact procedures**
In the case of an emergency, the University of Montana Police Department must be contacted immediately at 243-4000 and/or 911.

**Contact Information for notification and approval**

American Indian Student Services  
Directors Office  
227 Lommasson Center  
243-6352

Administrative Associate Director  
Institute for Educational Research and Services  
McGill Hall 026  
243-5344

Residence Life  
Director  
Turner Hall, Rm 101  
243-2611