

 BRANDON UNIVERSITY	Protocol for the Use of <i>He Oyate Tawapi</i>	Administered by: Dean of Health Studies
Administrative Policy	First Approved: September 25, 2008 (Board Policy)	Updated: June 2, 2010 (Board Policy) November 22, 2019

1.0 Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, faculty and visitors to Brandon University.

2.0 Policy

He Oyate Tawapi (Room 141 in the Health Studies Complex) was designed to provide for and address the teaching needs of academic faculty, support Indigenous ceremonies and programming and encourage use by community organizations. The room is also a shared space that serves multiple purposes in the context of a public university and its functions. It is appropriate that this room is utilized for teaching, ceremonial events and non-ceremonial purposes, and in that context, all parties are kindly requested to bring a spirit of cooperation, respect and mutual accommodation to the use of the space. Additionally, we recognize the significance of the space to many members of the Indigenous communities within the University and wider community. The usage of the room shall be guided by the principles and practices outlined below.

1. The room may be used as a teaching space. When classroom bookings take place, preference shall be given to academic faculty and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers.
2. The room may be used for ceremonies conducted by Indigenous peoples. Any ceremonial requirements will be provided by the user groups.
3. The room may be used for meetings and events by programs within the Faculty of Health Studies by the broader campus community and by appropriate community groups, as booked by the office of the Dean of Health Studies.
4. The room contains a fire pit that shall remain appropriately covered at all times. This will minimize the risk that anyone will accidentally step on the pit, while ensuring the health and safety of occupants to the room. If smudging will occur, operating practices of the air management equipment in the room will be discussed with the potential user.
5. The room booking is processed through the office of the Dean of Health Studies.
 - a. The first priority for the use of the room will be Indigenous and non-Indigenous teaching and academic activities.

- b. The second priority for the use of the room will be ceremonial purposes as undertaken by Indigenous programming, groups or organizations within Brandon University.
 - c. The third priority for the use of the room will be other activities organized or undertaken by members of the University community.
 - d. The final priority for the use of the room will be activities organized, undertaken or sponsored by appropriate community groups.
- This prioritization is intended as a guideline. Prior bookings will be honoured. Future bookings will be accommodated as per the instructions above.
- 6. The space occupied by the *He Oyate Tawapi* room on the main floor and the George and Mary Gooden Art Gallery on the second floor, shall be considered a single space and booked on that basis to avoid conflicting uses.
 - 7. It is recognized that drumming and singing may be part of many ceremonial events and pedagogical practices. We respect and support such activities. However, prior to the room being booked, users of the space will be asked to indicate whether singing or drumming will be undertaken to ensure such activities are not inadvertently interfering with or negatively impacting educational activities such as lectures and/or examinations. This is done in an effort to help support and maintain a learning environment that yields the best educational outcomes.
 - 8. At no time shall a fire (of any size) be hosted in the fire pit in the room.
 - 9. At no time shall alcohol be served or consumed in the room.

3.0 Accountability

The Dean of Health Studies is responsible for the communication, administration and interpretation of this policy.

4.0 Review

Formal review of this policy will be conducted every three (3) years.

5.0 Previous Policies

Board of Governors, Protocol for the Use of *He Oyate Tawapi* Room (rescinded January 2020)

6.0 References

- 6.1 Sources
 - Manitoba Labour & Regulatory Services – Workplace, Safety & Health Legislation
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety/wshl.html>
- 6.2 Related documents
 - a. Board of Governors Safety & Health Policy
 - b. Administrative Policy, Traditional Aboriginal Activities on Campus (to be rescinded)
 - c. Administrative Policy, Guidelines for Indoor or Outdoor Indigenous Ceremonies

