SUBJECT:  Student Affairs
POLICY:  314.1 Eagle Feather Ceremony – Distribution of Eagle Feathers
RELATED PROCEDURE:  
EFFECTIVE:  November 2019  REVISED:  
REVIEWED:  

Introduction and Purpose
Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Education Title VII Student Eligibility Certification, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title VII, Part A, Subpart I, Indian means any individual who is (1) a member (as defined by the Indian tribe or band) of an Indian tribe or band, including those Indian tribe or bands terminated since 1940, and those recognized by the State in which the Tribe or band reside; or (2) a descendent in the first or second degree (parent or grandparent) as described in (1); or (3) considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose; or (4) an Eskimo or Aleut or other Alaska native; or (5) a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect October 19, 1994.

In addition, pursuant to Montana Code Annotated, 2-1-315, Tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance – allowed at public events.  (1) The purpose of this section is to help further the State’s recognition of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and the State’s commitment to preserving the American Indians’ cultural integrity as provided in Article X, Section 1(2). Of the Montana constitution.

Policy
Great Falls College MSU may gift graduating students of eligible Indian (Native American) heritage with one (1) eagle feather. A tribal elder will perform the transfer ceremony. Proof of tribal enrollment or descendency must be provided. Graduating eligible students must attend the scheduled Eagle Feather Ceremony to receive transfer of their feather.

Native Americans may give feathers or other eagle items as gifts to other Native Americans and may hand them down within their families. They may not, however, give them to non-Native Americans.