



2.2.14 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Interim Policy)

Unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”), commonly referred to as “drones,” offer opportunities to advance the university and its teaching, research and service mission. This policy is intended to support the university’s mission while also addressing issues of safety, privacy, and compliance with applicable laws and Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Any university employee, student, vendor, visitor or other third party who seeks to operate a UAS on or above university property or at a university-sponsored event must obtain advance approval from the university’s Department of Public Safety. Any operation that is not approved in advance is prohibited.

For the purpose of this policy, a UAS means an unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft.

Requests for Approval

A request for approval should be submitted to the Department of Public Safety at least ten (10) business days prior to the planned operation. The request must be complete, accurate and include the name and contact information of the requesting party and the operator; the date, time and location of the requested operation; the purpose of the operation; the equipment to be used; a description of any data to be collected; and verification that the requesting party operates in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Department of Public Safety may request additional information in connection with its evaluation of the request.

The Department of Public Safety will consult with other departments as appropriate to evaluate the request. If the request is for research or other academic purposes, the appropriate dean’s office and/or the provost’s office will be consulted before a decision is made. The Department of Public Safety may approve or deny the request or approve the request with modifications, and will notify the requesting party in writing of its decision.

Enforcement

Any approved operation of a UAS must be conducted in a manner that is safe, respects the privacy rights of others, and is consistent with applicable laws, Federal Aviation Administration regulations, and the terms of the university’s approval. The Department of Public Safety may rescind a previously-granted approval and require the immediate cessation of any operation that does not meet these requirements.

A violation of this policy may result in corrective action in accordance with the policies and procedures applicable to the individual(s) involved.

(March 18, 2016 - Interim Policy)