



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. II – FACULTY: HEALTH AND SAFETY 1.0

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES AND MODEL AIRCRAFT) UNIVERSITY POLICY

I. POLICY STATEMENT

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (University) recognizes the value of technology including, but not limited to, the operation or use of unmanned aircraft systems, including drones and model aircraft, in creating unique educational, research and commercial opportunities for faculty, students, and the broader campus community. The University must seek those benefits in a manner that is consistent with the regulations promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the laws of the State of North Carolina.

This Policy (the “Policy”) establishes the requirements to operate unmanned aircraft systems on or above the University’s campus and University-controlled property in furtherance of the foregoing objectives, while reducing the risks to safety, security, and privacy on campus and any other University-controlled property.

II. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all members of the University community, including but not limited to employees, students, clubs, organizations, vendors and any other individuals who are operating unmanned aircraft systems as part of their employment or as part of any University-related research or activity. This Policy also applies to any person or entity not affiliated with the University who may operate unmanned aircraft systems on University property or land, including recreational and non-recreational aircraft. Any

person or entity operating unmanned aircraft systems on University land is personally responsible for complying with this Policy, FAA regulations, state and federal laws, and all other University policies.

III. DEFINITIONS

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): An aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft, and all of the associated systems (support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc.) necessary to operate the UAS. This definition includes, but is not limited to, any unmanned aircraft system that is designated as a “model aircraft” by the Federal Aviation Administration. UAS may have a variety of names including drone, quadcopter, quadrotor, etc.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Review Committee (UAS Review Committee): A University committee consisting of one representative from each of the following University areas, which is responsible for the review of UAS requests for compliance with this Policy: Office of the Provost; University Relations; University Police; and Information Technology. Members of other University units may be appointed on an ad hoc basis.

Emergency Services use: The use or operation of UAS by law enforcement officers in furtherance of public duties, including but not limited to, fire and police services.

University use: The use or operation of UAS for purposes sanctioned by the University, including education, instruction, research, marketing, public relations or other purposes directly related to the mission of the University.

Commercial Use: The use or operation of UAS in furtherance of business objectives, which are unrelated to the University.

Hobbyist use: Use or operation of UAS for purposes other than sanctioned University use as defined above. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of UAS by student organizations or for recreation.

IV. PERMITTED USES

Generally, University use of UAS is permissible, provided appropriate approval is obtained as provided herein. University employees are responsible for following and obtaining all required permissions under this Policy.

Commercial use of UAS may be permissible, subject to University approval as provided herein. Commercial use includes use by vendors and other non-University employees. Commercial users or operators are responsible for following and obtaining all required permissions under this Policy.

Emergency Services use is permissible, provided such use meets the definition of this Policy.

Hobbyist use of UAS is not permitted under any circumstances on University property.

V. APPROVAL PROCESS

All requests for the use of UAS must be submitted online, at least five (5) business days prior to the requested use date, on the [form provided by the University](#). Following the submission of an online request and all required documentation, the UAS Review Committee shall review the request for compliance with this Policy. The decision by the UAS Review Committee is final and may not be appealed.

VI. EXEMPTIONS

The use or operation of UAS for the provision of Emergency Services by authorized emergency or law enforcement personnel as defined in this Policy is expressly exempted from the provisions of this policy.

VII. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

All permitted uses of UAS under this Policy must comply with applicable federal and state laws in the location where the UAS is to be used or operated e.g., when UAS are operated out of state or internationally for a student competition.

VIII. SANCTIONS

Operation or use of UAS in a manner that is inconsistent with this Policy may subject a UAS user or operator to discipline or expulsion from the University, loss of University privileges, confiscation, removal, and civil or criminal penalties.

Approved by the Chancellor

Date Policy is Effective: 9/30/19