



Prohibited Use of Unmanned and Remote Controlled Aerial Vehicles Policy

Area:	University Wide	Number:	ITXXX
Subject:	Unmanned aerial vehicles and hobby aircraft	Issued:	9/5/2014
Applies To:	Everyone	Revised:	
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Responsible Party:	Vice President for Information Technology	Reviewed:	
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Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stipulates that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAS) may not be flown for commercial or non-hobby purposes without an FAA Certificate of Authorization (COA). This includes, but is not limited to, the use of UAS for research, marketing, and communication. The FAA does not extend any sort of hobby or recreational use exemption or allowance to a public university to operate unmanned aircraft for any purpose. In order for public universities to operate UAS for research purposes, they must apply for and be granted a COA from the FAA to enable limited operation of unmanned aircraft. Note that COAs are granted to the University, not to individuals (<http://www.faa.gov/uas/>).

Hobby or recreational flying of remote controlled aircraft does not require FAA approval. However, any faculty, staff, or students operating UAS for education, hobby, or recreational purposes must follow the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) community-based safety guidelines (<http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/105.pdf>) and should operate at an AMA-sanctioned location where such UAS use is approved.

Given the current FAA rules, and adhering to the AMA community based safety guidelines, the University establishes the following policy prohibiting the operation of UAS for any purposes on University property:

Policy

A no-fly zone is established for all Georgia Southern University property for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) that are privately or commercially operated for any purpose, including but not limited to hobby and recreational use.

Any FAA Certificate of Authorization application or other proposed use of UAS including but not limited to the use of UAS for recreation, education, research, marketing, or communication, must be approved by the President.

Definitions

UAS Unmanned aerial vehicles which includes, but is not limited to, “drones”, airplanes, helicopters, rockets, blimps and other unspecified vehicles flown by radio control, computer control, free flight, or control line.

No-Fly-Zone A designated area (University property) where the operation of UAS is prohibited.

Procedures

Since current FAA rules do not allow COAs for educational purposes, any University faculty interested in using UAS for any educational or research purposes should contact the Vice President for Research and Economic Development office to discuss options.

This policy will be periodically reviewed as FAA regulations are modified.

Enforcement

Persons in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action by the University. Violation of FAA regulations is subject to federal prosecution and fines.