

3356-4-23 Unmanned aircraft (drones and model aircraft).

- (A) Policy statement. The operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including drones and model aircraft, is regulated by the federal aviation administration (FAA) and the laws of the state of Ohio. Youngstown state university (university) seeks to permit UASs to be utilized productively in a manner that fully meets institutional, legal, public safety, and ethical responsibilities.
- (B) Purpose. To provide direction to anyone seeking to operate a UAS on or above university property or as part of university employment or university activities.
- (C) Scope. This policy applies to:
 - (1) Employees, students, and student groups operating UASs in any location as part of their university employment or as part of university activities;
 - (2) The operation by any person of UASs on or above Youngstown state university property;
 - (3) The purchase of UASs with funding through the university, including university accounts, grants, or university foundation accounts;
 - (4) The hiring or contracting for any UAS services by a university department, office, or unit; and
 - (5) University operations both on and off campus.
 - (6) This policy does not apply to use of UASs by law enforcement in the scope of their duties.
- (D) Definitions.
 - (1) University property – buildings, grounds, and land that are owned, leased, licensed or otherwise controlled by the university, including but not limited to any university air rights recognized by federal or state law.
 - (2) Unmanned aircraft system (UAS) – any remotely operated or controlled aircraft intended to fly within the national airspace

system. Includes devices commonly referred to as drones or model aircraft and may also include support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, and communications. For purposes of this policy, collectively referred to as UASs.

- (3) Approved operations request form – an authorization issued by university risk management to an operator for a specific aircraft or activity for a specific location.
- (4) Operator – the pilot or individual who is controlling, maneuvering, or commanding a UAS.

(E) Parameters.

- (1) UAS operators must obtain all required documentation and approvals for compliance with FAA regulations, state and federal laws, and university policies prior to use on or above university property or elsewhere on behalf of the university.
- (2) UASs for educational use (university owned), as defined by the FAA, on or above university or elsewhere on behalf of the university must be approved in advance through an operations request form pursuant to university administrative policy 4-2.
- (3) UASs for commercial use (contracted or vendor), as defined by the FAA, on or above university property or elsewhere on behalf of the university must be approved in advance through an operations request form pursuant to university administrative policy 4-2.
- (4) UASs for hobbyist use is prohibited.
- (5) UASs shall be operated in a responsible manner and shall not at any time create a hazard to university property, the university community, or the public.
- (6) When operating a UAS for purposes of recording or transmitting visual images, operators must take all reasonable measures to avoid areas normally considered private and to avoid the unauthorized interception or recordings of images, electronic communications, and electronic data.

(F) Violations.

- (1) Any violations of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with applicable university policies and procedures, which may include disciplinary actions up to and including termination from the university for employees and sanctions for students up to and including expulsion from the university.
- (2) Legal prohibitions regarding physical presence on campus and other legal action may also be pursued against third parties that operate a UAS or model aircraft in violation of this policy.
- (3) Operation or use of UASs in violation of this policy and/or the administrative policies that results in fines or damages shall be the sole responsibility of the operator.