

Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Policy Title	Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs)
Policy Owner	Emergency Management Director (Assistant Director of Public Safety)
Responsible Office	Vice President, Research and Economic Development
Contact Information	Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Office of Emergency Management, (401) 874-4974.
Approved By	Senior Leadership Team
Approval Date	July 20, 2018
Effective Date	July 20, 2018
Next Review Date	July 20, 2020
Entities Affected by Policy	Research faculty/staff, Public Safety staff, Communications & Marketing staff, Facilities Services staff
Who Needs to Know About and Follow this Policy	This policy applies to (a) all UAS use by University employees, students, contractors and agents undertaken in connection with any University Related Activity, and (b) any flights of UASs on or over University Property.
Definitions	<p>Aircraft. Any contrivance invented, used, or designed to navigate, or fly in, the air</p> <p>Civil Aircraft. Any aircraft except a Public Aircraft</p> <p>COA. FAA Certificate of Authorization</p> <p>Director. The University's Emergency Management Director (Assistant Director of Public Safety)</p> <p>Drone. A Small Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)</p> <p>Eligible Individuals. The following categories of individuals may be authorized by the University to operate a Small UAS over URI Property or in connection with URI Related Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual members of the URI Community (faculty, staff, students) wishing to operate a Small UAS in connection with a URI Related Activity in which they are participating. • Vendors hired by the University to perform a service which requires the operation of a Small UAS. • Outside parties (e.g. news organizations) wishing to operate a UAS over University Property for a purpose which the University has approved at its sole discretion. • Government Entities operating under their own statutory authority. <p>Governmental Function. An activity undertaken by a government, such as national defense, intelligence missions, firefighting, search and rescue, law enforcement</p>

	<p>(including transport of prisoners, detainees, and illegal aliens), aeronautical research, or biological or geological resource management</p> <p>Model aircraft. An unmanned aircraft that is (1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere; (2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and (3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes</p> <p>National Airspace System (NAS). The airspace, navigation facilities and airports of the United States along with their associated information, services, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, personnel and equipment</p> <p>Operator. The person responsible for the direct control of the UAS; This person may not necessarily be the Remote PIC</p> <p>Public Aircraft. An aircraft owned and operated by the United States Government, government of a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States or a political subdivision of one of these governments in furtherance of a governmental function, and that is not used for commercial purposes</p> <p>Public COA. A COA issued by the FAA permitting a UAS to be operated as a public aircraft in furtherance of a governmental function</p> <p>Remote Pilot Certificate with a Small UAS Rating. A Certificate issued under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 107 to permit a person to operate a Small Unmanned Aircraft System</p> <p>Remote Pilot in Command (PIC). The person directly responsible for and is the final authority as to the operation of the small unmanned aircraft system</p> <p>See and Avoid. The duty of the PIC to exercise vigilance to avoid interference with other aircraft</p> <p>Small Unmanned Aircraft. An unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds on takeoff, including everything that is on board or otherwise attached to the aircraft</p> <p>Small Unmanned Aircraft System (Small UAS). A small unmanned aircraft and its associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the small unmanned aircraft) that are required for the safe and efficient operation of the small unmanned aircraft in the national airspace system</p> <p>University Affiliates. Students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rhode Island</p> <p>University Related Activity. Any activity undertaken by URI faculty, staff or students, by recognized student groups, or by contractors or agents of URI on behalf of URI, which relate in whole or in part to any academic, research, public service, administrative, or other function or purpose performed under the auspices of URI, or in pursuance of URI employment related obligations, URI academic or curricular programs, or recognized URI extracurricular activities</p> <p>Unmanned Aircraft. An aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft</p> <p>Visual Observer. A person who has been designated to assist the PIC in complying with his or her see and avoid duties and maintain a lookout for other aircraft or hazards that may affect the safety of flight</p> <p>University Property. The land, and the airspace above, all real property owned or controlled by URI</p>
<p>Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or</p>	<p>Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 107 “The Part 107 Rules” (officially entitled “Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems”)</p>

Necessitating This Policy	Uniform Aeronautical Regulatory Act, R.I.G.L. Chapter 1-4 Rhode Island Airport Corporation “Aeronautics Regulations” Guidance issued by the FAA on 5/4/16 entitled “Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems” (hereinafter referred to as the “FAA Educational use Guidance”)
Reason for Policy/Purpose	The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that every use of a Small UAS in connection with a University Related Activity, and every instance involving the operation of a Small UAS on or over University Property: (a) is allowed by law and University policy (b) meets all conditions and limitations imposed by applicable law and University policy, (c) is conducted safely, without harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to persons and property, and (d) respects personal and organizational privacy interests and does not inappropriately or illegally invade or diminish those privacy interests.
Abstract	Except as specifically provided for below, this policy prohibits recreational use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (also referred to as “drones”) on URI property while requiring that all other UAS operations be permitted through the University’s established approval process.
Related Procedures	The University’s Emergency Management Director (Assistant Director of Public Safety) is the University official responsible for establishing the procedures that follow from this Policy. The Emergency Management Director will chair a committee (“Small UAS Committee”) consisting of the Vice President for Research & Economic Development, the Provost, the Vice President for Administration and Finance, the Director of Research Integrity, and the Risk Manager. The Provost may designate additional Small UAS Committee members from time to time from among the Deans whose faculty engage in research involving Small UAS’s. Flight permitting procedures shall be drafted by the Director of Research Integrity, reviewed by University Counsel, and approved by the Small UAS Committee and the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy Statement

Permitted Uses

The University of Rhode Island authorizes the use of Small UAS (sUAS) on its campuses and/or in its activities via a permitting process on an individual, project-driven basis. Other categories of UAS are prohibited. The University will not permit individuals to operate a sUAS over URI Property or in connection with URI Related Activities unless authorized by the FAA for the type of aircraft and purpose of flight(s) being conducted.

sUAS operations under this Policy will be permitted under the following types of FAA authorization:

- Public aircraft operations under a public COA
- Civil Aircraft Operations Under the Part 107 Rules
- Civil Aircraft Operation under a Section 333 Exemption and Commercial COA
- Civil Aircraft – Model Aircraft Operations

NOTE: Any flight that is made for business, commercial, or professional purposes does not qualify as a model aircraft operation and must therefore meet the requirements for civil or public aircraft operations as described

above. University employees who fly sUAS as part of their job duties or in furtherance of their professional activities do not qualify as model aircraft operators.

All aircraft operated under this Policy must have a valid current FAA registration.

Eligible Individuals

Eligible Individuals may be permitted to operate Small UAS over University Property or in connection with URI Related Activities for the following uses or purposes: public safety surveillance, agricultural and environmental monitoring, infrastructure inspection, mapping, education, research and development, promotion, marketing, and student enrichment and recreation. Operators of sUAS's shall be aware of and follow all applicable limitations and conditions place on flight by the FAA.

Permitting of flights by University vendors

Small UAS operations may be conducted by vendors hired by the University. However, all such flights must be approved under this process and must meet all of the requirements of this policy. No vendor may operate an aircraft on behalf of the University without all necessary state and federal approvals, such as a Section 333 Exemption or a Part 107 Remote Pilot Operators Certificate as well as any waivers required under 14 C.F.R. § 107.205. Vendors must observe all applicable state and federal restrictions and limitations on Small UAS operation any time they operate on behalf of the University or from University owned or controlled property. In addition, a University Sponsor (e.g. a URI department, office or official) must be identified who supports the proposed vendor operations, acts as a liaison to the vendor, and takes responsibility for assisting with the application process and coordinating and generally overseeing the vendor's operations. Finally, anyone engaging a vendor or service provider must meet all applicable requirements of the University for contracting with any third party.

Prohibitions

The University of Rhode Island only permits the use of Small UAS on its campuses and/or in its activities. Other categories of UAS are prohibited.

No sUAS operations are permitted for the following uses or purposes: for illegal surveillance or invasion of privacy; to conduct package delivery for compensation or hire; for any other use or activity prohibited by law or University policy.

No Model Aircraft may be flown for recreational, hobby or educational purposes over URI except that URI students may in limited circumstances be authorized to fly model aircraft in connection with a URI Related Activity for the following recreational purposes with the approval of the University:

- Individual students in film, photography or aviation related classes at URI may apply to the University for an exception to operate a model aircraft; or
- Student members of an officially recognized student group or club may apply to the University for an exception to operate a model aircraft in connection with the group's authorized activities.

Regardless of which of the two above-listed bases for approval a student uses to obtain URI approval for to fly a model aircraft over URI Property or in connection with a URI Activity, all students authorized by URI to fly a model aircraft is expected to read and be familiar with, and follow, the FAA's "Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft," (first published on 6/18/14), which explains what parts of the Federal Aviation Regulations apply to these flights. In addition, the model aircraft operator should be aware of, and follow, all of the other applicable limitations on the use of "model aircraft."

Flight Permitting

The Small UAS Pilot-In-Command (PIC), when necessary together with an identified URI Sponsor, will apply and for obtain a URI Small UAS Flight Permit for any and all sUAS operations they wish to perform over URI Property or in connection with any URI Related Activity they are participating in. The University's Small UAS Committee will establish requirements for flight permitting that may include appropriate documentation and flight approvals.

The URI Small UAS Flight Permit issued by the Director is specific to PIC, aircraft, location, dates/times, and flight purposes indicated in the application. Vendors and third-party sUAS operators may only request flight permits on a per-flight basis. Members of the University Community may request a flight permit covering multiple flights over a longer period of time (up to a year) for the same PIC, aircraft, location(s) and purpose. The Department of Public Safety must be notified in advance of each individual flight operation conducted under the permit. *NOTE: sUAS flight operations conducted for a different purpose or in a location other than that specified in the original permit will require either a new permit application or an amendment to the existing one.*

In instances where the sUAS Operator is different from the sUAS Pilot-In-Command (PIC), the PIC must at all times supervise the Operator as required by FAA regulations. The PIC will be responsible for any Operators under their supervision, and all Operators are required to comply with this Policy.

Exemptions

In cases of a public safety emergency, a Small UAS may be operated by authorized representatives of the University's Public Safety Department (in accordance with all applicable FAA compliant Conditions of Use) without prior permission.

Enforcement

Depending on their association with the University, individuals violating this Policy may be subject to sanctions/remedies that can include, but are not limited to, disciplinary action for University Affiliates, civil action, and/or prohibition from conducting future sUAS operations on URI campuses or in conjunction with URI Activities.