

**Policy Title: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones and Model Aircraft)**

**Policy Category: Eastern Connecticut State University Policy**

**Policy Owner: Department of Public Safety**

**Review Period: Every One (1) Year Effective**

**Date: June 21, 2019**

### **Policy Summary**

This policy addresses the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) commonly referred to as “drones” on the Eastern Connecticut State University campus.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Eastern Connecticut State University complies with FAA requirements, state law, and any other locally applicable laws or regulations regarding unmanned aircraft systems. Inherent risks in the operation of such equipment require additional insurance provisions and policy considerations.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to:

1. Eastern Connecticut State University employees and students operating unmanned aircraft systems in any location as part of their University employment or as part of University activities;
2. The operation by any person or entity of UAS or model aircraft on or above Eastern Connecticut State University property, and;
3. The purchase of unmanned aircraft systems with funding through Eastern Connecticut State University, including university accounts, grants, or foundation accounts.

### **Definitions**

University Property – Buildings, grounds, and land that are owned by the State of Connecticut or controlled by Eastern Connecticut State University via leases or other formal contractual arrangements. This includes the airspace above such property.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) - UAS are also known as or may be characterized as Drones. According to the FAA, a UAS is the unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. UAS may have a variety of names including quadcopter, quadrotor, etc. FAA regulation applies to UAS regardless of size or weight. Model aircraft are not considered by the FAA as UAS and have different regulations.

Model Aircraft - Model aircraft are treated separately by the FAA from other UAS and are subject to different regulations and guidelines. Model aircraft are not used for any business purposes, only for hobby and recreation.

## **Policy**

The operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including drones and model aircraft, is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances. Eastern Connecticut State University will establish procedures intended to facilitate compliance with those legal obligations and to reduce risks to safety, security and privacy. Except as otherwise expressly permitted by this Policy, operation of any UAS on or above University Property is prohibited. Any University employee or student wishing to operate a UAS or model aircraft as part of a University program must obtain prior written authorization from the University's Department of Public Safety. In addition, if planning to fly at any University sporting event, the Department of Athletics must be notified and the flight approved by the Director of Athletics or his/her designee.

Any third party or hobbyist operator wishing to operate a UAS or model aircraft on or over University property must receive prior written authorization from the University's Department of Public Safety.

Operators of any UAS must furnish the University with valid copies of all required FAA certifications and any other permits required by federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance. Eastern Connecticut State University may require certain preconditions to authorization, including but not limited to requiring particular insurance coverages and the execution of a release of claims.

1. UAS must only be used accordance with the Drone Use Application and Drone Use Conditional Agreement.
2. UAS shall not be used to monitor or record areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in accordance with accepted social norms. These areas include, but are not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, individual residential rooms, changing or dressing rooms, and health treatment rooms.
3. UAS shall not be used to monitor or record residential hallways, residential lounges, or the insides of campus buildings.
4. UAS shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information which may be found, for example, on an individual's workspaces, on computer or other electronic displays.
5. UAS shall not cause any obstructions in the pathways of aircraft in flight or in any way constitute a hazard to any aircraft or to the health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants of the aircraft and the underlying land.

Fines or damages incurred by individuals or units that do not comply with this policy shall not be paid by Eastern Connecticut State University and shall be the sole responsibility of those persons responsible.