

## **Gettysburg College Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) also known as Drones**

**Developed by the Ethics and Integrity Committee**

**Adopted by President's Council**

**Effective: 04/14/16**

### **Policy Rationale:**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems, also known as drones, have the potential to support the College's academic and administrative work on campus and beyond, and to enhance students' residential and co-curricular activities. However, they also represent risks to third parties, especially pedestrians and air traffic. In addition, since drones can be used for photography and videography they pose a risk to privacy.

Gettysburg College's campus is home to students and is frequently visited on foot by parents, alumni and other visitors. Equally, the College campus is frequently over flown at low altitude by light aircraft and helicopters. Beyond campus, the risks posed to pedestrians and air traffic from UAS do not diminish.

In December 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published regulations regarding the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). These regulations can be found at:

- <https://www.faa.gov/uas/>

### **Policy:**

#### **UAS Used for Professional Purpose**

Gettysburg College employees – including student workers – will comply with the regulations published by the Federal Aviation Administration. If working abroad, Gettysburg College employees will comply with the regulations of the country in which they are working in addition to the FAA regulations.

#### **UAS Used for Recreational Purpose**

Gettysburg College prohibits all recreational use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems on its grounds.

### **Procedure for an employee wishing to use a UAS:**

- Request an exemption from the relevant subsections of [Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 \(FMRA\)](#).
  - Note: it is advisable to work with an attorney on this request. If you wish to do so, please contact the Vice President of your Division or the Provost if you are a faculty member.

- Comply with the requirements of the exemption authorization, if granted.
  - Note: this will require the employee operating the UAS to have a current Pilot's License
- Maintain the documentation associated with the exemption authorization and produce it on request.
- Notify the Department of Public Safety 48 hours ahead of time of the date, time and location of all flights.

**Procedure to engage the services of a third party operator of a UAS:**

- Third party UAS operators may only be hired by department Directors, academic Chairs or members of President's Council.
- The third party must supply a copy of the exemption authorization documentation they received from the FAA. The third party must supply a copy of the UAS operator's current pilot's license.
- The employee who hires the third party is required to maintain this documentation and to produce it upon request.
- The employee who hires the third party is required to notify the Department of Public Safety 48 hours ahead of time of the date, time and location of all flights.

**Failure to Comply**

Failure to comply with this policy and the procedures outlined above will entail the following consequences:

**Non-Compliant Employees:**

- None of the employees responsible for the flight of the UAS will be covered by the College's insurance. This includes employees who were engaged in the planning, decision-making process, operational support, as well as the employee who was in control of the UAS during its flight.
- All employees responsible for the flight of the UAS will be subject to progressive disciplinary measures. This includes employees who were engaged in the planning, decision-making process, operational support, as well as the employee who was in control of the UAS during its flight.

**Non-Compliant Students:**

- Students who are non-compliant with this policy will be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for proper resolution.

**Non-Compliant Members of the Public:**

- Members of the public who fly drones on the College's grounds will be required to cease and desist.