Purpose:
The University of Alabama ("University" or "UA") is committed to maintaining a safe and non-threatening campus environment. This commitment reflects the institution's adherence to its mission, to its various policies supporting its mission, and to relevant state and federal laws. Consistent with that commitment, the University has implemented the following policy on the use and operation of unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS").

Policy Statement:
The University of Alabama's Policy on Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems applies to University employees and students operating UAS in any location as part of their University employment or as part of University activities; the operation by any person or entity of UAS or model aircraft on or above University property, and; the purchase of UAS with funding through the University, including University grants or accounts.

Policy/Procedures:

a. All operation and use of UAS or on or above University property must comply with FAA regulations and local, state, and federal laws regarding use of UAS. Any operation or use of UAS that violates such regulations or laws is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the operator of the UAS to ensure that all relevant laws and regulations are adhered to during operation of the UAS.

b. All use of UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, on or above University property must be pre-approved by the University, regardless of whether the operator is a UA employee, UA student, or unaffiliated with the University. All operators of UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, on or above University property must obtain both a ground use permit from the University Office of Facilities and Grounds and a location agreement from the Office of University Relations. Operators of UAS must also provide proof of FAA approval of UAS operation to the appropriate University offices. The University reserves the right to rescind any ground use permits or location agreements issued to an operator if the operator violates any provision of this policy.

c. All operators of UAS must minimize risks to other aircraft and people and property on the ground.

d. UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record an area 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.

i. Using a UAS to monitor or eavesdrop may lead to criminal charges. Under Alabama state law, "a person commits the crime of criminal surveillance if he intentionally engages in surveillance while trespassing in a private place." See
Ala. Code § 13A-11-32(a). Furthermore “a person commits the crime of criminal possession of an eavesdropping device if he possesses, manufactures, sends or transports any device designed or commonly used for eavesdropping, and: (1) intends to use that device to eavesdrop; or (2) knows that another person intends to use that device to eavesdrop.” See Ala. Code § 13A-11-34.

e. UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record residential hallways, residential lounges, medical facilities, or the insides of campus daycare facilities.

f. UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information, unless authorized by the appropriate University office.

g. In order to promote safety, privacy, and fair competition, all operators of UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, are prohibited from flying on or above any UA intercollegiate athletic facility, unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate University office. UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, are also prohibited from monitoring or recording any UA intercollegiate athletic facility, unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate University office. UA intercollegiate athletic facilities include Bryant-Denny Stadium, Coleman Coliseum, Sewell Thomas Field, Sam Bailey Track and Field, the varsity tennis courts, the softball complex, the golf team facilities, the soccer stadium, and athletic indoor and outdoor practice fields and training facilities.

h. Pursuant to an FAA “notice to airmen” (NOTAM), UAS are prohibited within a 3 nautical mile radius (NMR) up to and including 3000 feet above ground level (AGL) of Bryant-Denny Stadium beginning an hour before the scheduled kick-off time of a football game until one hour after the end of the football game.

i. Flights conducted for operational purposes or venue or broadcast coverage of a football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium are permitted if the flights are conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, as well as FAA regulations and University policies - including those set forth within this policy.

ii. The restrictions described above do not apply to those aircraft authorized by and in contact with air traffic control for operational or safety of flight purposes, Department of Defense, law enforcement, and air ambulance flight operations, Fire and Rescue, and EMA.

i. Pursuant to FAA guidelines, model aircrafts piloted above or on University property by any operator shall not

i. Fly near people or near or in stadiums;

ii. Exceed an altitude of 400 feet above ground level;

iii. Interfere with manned aircraft operations;

iv. Be flown in a careless or reckless manner; or

v. Be used to take a photograph or video for compensation or sale to another individual.

For more information on these guidelines, visit http://faa.gov/uas/model_aircraft.

j. In accordance with FAA legal interpretation of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, University employees and students operating UAS in any location as part of their University employment or as part of University activities may be restricted from using a UAS for certain purposes - even if the employee or student is using federal grant money to do so - if the FAA does not categorize the purpose as a “governmental function.”

k. Use of UAS must comply with all other applicable University policies.
B. Enforcement and Penalties

a. Persons who are on campus and/or operating a UAS on or above campus and are in violation of University policy are trespassers and may be dealt with accordingly, including, but not limited to, being removed from campus and receiving a written directive to remain off campus. Contractors and vendors are expected to comply with this policy and contract terms.

b. Student violations may be addressed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct as well as other applicable policies and may include sanctions, up to and including expulsion.

c. Employee violations may be resolved in accordance with employer policies, up to and including termination.

d. Violators of local, state, and federal laws and regulations may be dealt with by appropriate law enforcement.

Definitions

e. Model aircraft – "the term 'model aircraft' means 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," per § 336(c) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-95).

f. Operator – the pilot who is controlling, maneuvering, or commanding the UAS.

g. Small unmanned aircraft – "the term 'small unmanned aircraft' means an unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds," per § 336(6) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-95).

h. Unmanned aircraft – "the term 'unmanned aircraft' means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft," per § 331(8) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-95)

i. Unmanned aircraft system (UAS) – "the term 'unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system," per § 331(9) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-95).
Other Department and/or Divisions:

References:

Public Safety
University Police Department
Health and Safety
Risk Management
Athletics
Student Affairs

Office of the Vice President of Financial Affairs:

Approved by: [Signature]

Date: 8/10/2015