TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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No. 1109 Rev: 1

Policies and Procedures **Date: June 8, 2022**

Subject: Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

1. Purpose

Tidewater Community College is committed to the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for educational, research and promotional purpose. This policy defines appropriate management and use of UAS for both instructional and non-instructional use at TCC.

2. Policy

The procurement, care and maintenance, use and instruction of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) systems, and training regarding those systems shall be conducted safely, respectfully, and consistent with best practices in higher education and in compliance with policies and principles of the VCCS and applicable state and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) laws and regulations. All UAS instruction shall be provided by FAA 14 CFR Part 107 Certified UAS Remote Pilots in Command (RPICs). All individuals operating UAS at TCC for any reason shall follow 14 CFR Part 107.

This policy applies to all individuals operating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) on college property, and under the authority of the FAA.

3. Responsibilities

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Workforce Solutions shall be responsible for developing and maintaining procedures that are consistent with this policy and that comply with the policies and principles of the VCCS and with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

4. Procedures

Procedures regarding the use of UAS are maintained in the offices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Workforce Solutions.

5. Definitions

14 CFR Part 107. Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Regulations that applies to the commercial use of UAS. These rules apply to non-hobbyist small unmanned aircraft that cover a broad spectrum of commercial uses for drones weighing less than 55 pounds. Part 107 covers both academic and commercial operations.

Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC). The remote pilot in command is directly responsible for and is the final authority as to the operation of the small unmanned aircraft system. A remote pilot in command must be designated before and during the flight of the small unmanned aircraft. The RPIC is responsible for the overall safety and success of any UAS operation. All RPICs operating under this policy shall be approved by the Director of UAS Operations.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). UAS are a subset of Unmanned Systems (UMS) and refer to small, unmanned aircraft systems, sometimes known as "drones," under 55 pounds including the unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. UAS may have a variety of shapes and applications including quadcopter, quadrotor, etc. FAA regulation applies to UAS regardless of size or weight.

6. References

14 CFR Part 107 – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

FAA Memorandum: Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, 4 May 2016

7. Review Periodicity and Responsibility

The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall review this policy annually at the anniversary of its approval and, if necessary, recommend revisions.

8. Effective Date and Approval

The revision of this policy is effective upon its approval by the College President on June 8, 2022.

Policy Approved:

Marcia Conston, Ph.D.
President

Procedure Developed:

Michelle Woodhouse, Ed.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Chief Academic Officer

9. Review and Revision History

The initial version of this policy was approved on September 21, 2017.

- Revision 1
    - Updated Vice President titles
    - Edited definitions section
    - Removal of procedures

Approved June 8, 2022 by President Marcia Conston, Ph.D.