


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

December 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Policy Committee
From: Fred L. Poston 
Subject: Revision of Ordinance 9.00 (Aircraft)

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustee Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the modifications to University Ordinance 9.00 (Aircraft) as indicated on the attached Exhibit A.

BACKGROUND:

Interest in the nonmilitary use of unmanned aircraft is growing significantly across the country. Individuals and companies consider the use of unmanned aircraft desirable for a variety of civilian purposes, including commercial photography, aerial mapping, advertising, communications, and broadcasting. Unmanned aircraft come in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from the size of a large commercial passenger airplane to a small radio-controlled model helicopter.

In response to the growing demand for use of unmanned aircraft, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has regulated the use of unmanned aircraft in the national airspace. Those regulations respond to concerns that unmanned aircraft might interfere with commercial and general aviation operations, as well as pose a safety concern for other airborne vehicles, persons, and property on the ground.

The FAA currently prohibits the operation of unmanned aircraft in national airspace unless special authorization has been granted by the FAA through its Special Airworthiness Certificate – Experimental Category (civil aircraft) or Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (public aircraft) process. The FAA also permits the use of model aircraft for hobby or recreational purposes under certain conditions. The FAA does not permit the use of unmanned aircraft for commercial or business purposes.



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FINANCE AND
OPERATIONS**

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The Office of the General Counsel and the Department of Police and Public Safety recommend that revisions be made to the University's aircraft ordinance to correspond with FAA regulations for the use of unmanned aircraft. The revised ordinance would permit the use of unmanned aircraft in the airspace above University property only when such use is permissible under FAA regulations. The proposed changes reflect their recommendations.

The present version of Ordinance 9.00 is attached for your information as Exhibit B.

cc: Trustee Finance Committee, L.A. Simon, K. Wilcox, R. Noto,
J. Dunlap, K. Zayko

9.00 AIRCRAFT

9.01 Landing of

9.02 Unmanned aircraft

- .01 No person, except law enforcement authorities acting in the performance of their duties, shall without approval of the Police Chief and Director of Public Safety, or his/her designee, land any aircraft or depart in any aircraft, on or from property governed by the Board of Trustees.

- .02 No person shall, except in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, operate any unmanned aircraft in the airspace above property governed by the Board of Trustees.

Enacted: September 15, 1964
Amended: December 10, 1994
Amended: April 14, 1995
Amended: December 14, 2012

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