UAS FAQ’s

1. I’m a drone hobbyist and plan to use a drone on Krentzman Quad on the weekend. Do I need approval?
   a. Yes. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) use by any party for any university activity or on any university campus is not permitted, except with the prior written consent of the university’s UAS Review Board (UASRB) in accordance with the UAS policy, which can be found on the University Policies website.

2. Do I need approval to use a drone off campus, or out of state?
   a. If the out of state use is on a Northeastern University regional campus (Charlotte, Seattle, Silicon Valley, or Toronto), or is for University purposes elsewhere, the University Policy applies. If not, FAA guidelines and local ordinances apply.

3. What if a researcher takes a UAS off campus and damages something?
   a. Assuming the use was for University purposes, and the user received UASRB approval for use of the UAS, the damage is likely covered by University insurance. If damage occurs under this scenario, contact the Risk Services Office for further information.

4. Do I need to complete a UAS application to fly my drone at the Burlington Campus?
   a. If the flight is indoors only, including the netted enclosure, you must coordinate with Matthew Kling, Senior Research Engineer at KRI Burlington to coordinate and fly under KRI’s blanket UASRB approved application. If the flight is outdoors at the Burlington Campus, you must submit an application for approval through the UASRB.

5. My students are building drones for their classes; do test flights come under the policy?
   a. If the test results in the UAS rising under 12” off a stationary plain (e.g. a desk), approval is not required; if the UAS rises more than 12” off a stationary plain, UASRB approval is required.

6. My UAS is tiny, weighs less than 1lb, and fits in the palm of my hand – is it governed under the UAS policy?
   a. Yes, if the UAS is used for University purposes, or on University property. Refer to the University Policy and Small UAS Guidelines on the UAS website. If not, then refer to the FAA Small UAS Rule (14 CFR part 107), for instructions on drone registration, pilot license requirements, and operating rules.

7. My department is hiring a company to do UAS flights for aerial footage for a campus event – if the UAS use is outsourced, is UASRB approval required?
   a. Yes. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) use by any party, for any university activity or on any university campus is not permitted, except with the prior written consent of the university’s UAS Review Board (UASRB) in accordance with the UAS policy, which can be found on the University Policies website.

8. What is an FAA Waiver, and how do I know if I need one?
   a. Refer to the FAA Website for details around the requirements when flying UAS. FAA Small UAS Rule (14 CFR part 107) states: “Part 107 limits your altitude to 400 feet unless your unmanned aircraft is flying within 400 feet of a structure (in which case you may not fly higher than 400 feet above the top of that structure). Part 107 also limits your operation to Class G airspace unless you obtain FAA permission prior to the operation to
fly in controlled airspace.” FAA waivers are required in addition to, not in place of, a Northeastern University UAS Application. To request an FAA waiver, visit the FAA website and complete the application online.