Fact Sheet: Drone Operations on Campus

FAA Regulations prohibit the use of drones for non-recreational purposes within 5 nautical miles of the Santa Barbara Airport (which encompasses all of UCSB, Isla Vista, Goleta, and parts of Santa Barbara).

The UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety, the FAA, and the Santa Barbara Airport have agreed to allow the use of drones on the UCSB campus by UCSB faculty, students, and staff as long as the drone operator submits the proposed flight plan for approval as required by the Approval Process for UCSB UAS Flight Operations which can be found at http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/riskmanagement/unmanned-aerial-systems-drones.

During the course of the approval process, the UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety, the UCSB Police and the UCSB Risk Management Office will review the proposed UAS flight plan. The flight plan is subject to their approval and cannot proceed without it.

All on-campus UAS flights are restricted to the area south of Campbell Hall and to the west of Steck Traffic Circle at a maximum altitude of 100 ft. AGL (see map above), due to the proximity of the airport.

The Santa Barbara Airport must be notified of all on-campus UAS flights in advance of the flight. The Airport also requires notification that the flight has concluded. The UAS operator will be give the number to call at the Airport and the coordination procedures after the flight plan has been ap-