



**News For Release: February 16, 2016**

**College Drone Showdown;  
Campuses Seek Restrictions**

Sometimes the institutions that are the incubators for creative solutions to real world problems find themselves in a balancing act; regulating campus activity while encouraging research. For one aerospace engineering student, restrictions currently under consideration by Syracuse University (SU) could potentially bring drone research and development on campus to a halt, along with lucrative, outside research grants.

“What’s ironic is that I’m currently working on a drone project to automatically detect and retrieve other errant drones - a potential solution to an emerging societal problem” notes SU sophomore Kyle Foley. “Additionally corporations are funding SU drone projects, which becomes complicated if flights are prohibited or severely restricted on campus.”

To fly drones on campus, initial SU proposals being contemplated range from an outright ban to requiring students to apply for and be granted a special exemption from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which requires applicants to be a licensed pilot . “While learning to fly would be fun, most students don’t have a year and \$10,000 to do that.” In addition, the school would require the student to carry their own liability insurance which can tally into the thousands of dollars per year. “We’re hoping these proposed requirements are tabled.”

Foley notes that part of the process is educating those who develop policy but may not have an aviation background. As an example, administrators believed that a drone flight on campus would require a call to a nearby hospital with a helipad before each flight. There is no such FAA regulatory requirement since there is no official FAA-published instrument approach to the hospital. “We’re making good progress together in determining the facts in advance of an official policy.”

In the end, Foley concedes he’s probably learning a great lesson in college, even if it’s not related to drone research and development. “It’s clear that there can be a lot of community misinformation with a new industry, and the easiest thing is to do is just ban it. A little bit of handholding and cooperation has to go along with new technology. If both sides are a little unhappy with the outcome it was probably a good compromise.”

### About Kyle Foley

Mr. Foley, an Army veteran, is a BSAE engineering candidate at Syracuse University. He also serves as principal and CTO of AvStrategies LLC. [K@AvStrategies.com](mailto:K@AvStrategies.com)

### About AvStrategies LLC

AvStrategies is uniquely positioned in the burgeoning drone industry to provide advisory, design and R&D services. Web Site: [www.AvStrategies.com](http://www.AvStrategies.com) Email: [info@AvStrategies.com](mailto:info@AvStrategies.com)

### Additional Story Background

“Why Syracuse University Is Considering Banning The Flight Of Drones On Campus”, *The Daily Orange*, January 20, 2016 <http://tinyurl.com/j245t15>