

Research with a Mission: An Intro to the UGA Research Institute

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Research **Live**



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Agenda

- UGARI Background
- Institute Organization
- Opportunities
- Network of Support
- UGARI Strategy
- Questions



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Directory Forms & Policies Calendar Research News

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Office of Research

Feedback Support Research

About For Researchers For Industry

New leader for research:

New leader for research: UGA names David Berkowitz as next VP for research

Centers & Institutes

Research Core Facilities

Business Engagement

UGA TODAY - 13 January 2026

UGA sets another record with \$654M in R&D expenditures in FY25

Jan 13, 2026 — By David Mitchell

Campus News



The growth of the university's research enterprise has been enhanced by a strategic focus on hiring and supporting renowned faculty, as well as infrastructure improvements to modernize labs and classrooms. (Photo by Chamberlain Smith/UGA)

Record-high figure marks the university's seventh consecutive year of growth

UGA's federal R&D expenditures rose 11%. The university saw its largest year-over-year percentage growth from agencies including the U.S. Department of Defense, National Science Foundation and NASA, among others:

- U.S. Department of Defense: 64.6%
- National Science Foundation: 46.5%
- NASA: 41.1%
- Agency for International Development: 17.9%
- U.S. Department of the Interior: 16.8%
- U.S. Department of Commerce: 14.1%
- U.S. Department of Agriculture: 10.4%
- U.S. Department of Energy: 7.2%

University of Georgia Research Institute

UGARI's Goal: Create an organizational foundation and operational framework at UGA to facilitate and grow UGA's applied research partnerships with mission agencies and industry.

Objective: It is the objective of UGARI to facilitate research with multiple mission agencies (DOE, DoD, DHS, NASA, etc.) and industry across multiple sectors.

University of Georgia Research Institute

UGA **HAS** a tremendous set of unique research capabilities across the basic and applied sciences, including significant recent investments in AI/ML across a variety of disciplines

UGA is **BUILDING** a strong culture of working closely with mission driven agencies on addressing high priority requirements particular to those agencies

UGARI was **CREATED SPECIFICALLY** to bridge the gap between these amazing capabilities at UGA and the critical requirements of DoD, DOE, DHS, and similar mission driven agencies

University of Georgia Research Institute

Graduate Student Support

\$400,000 per year in graduate stipend support to increase collaborative research between UGA faculty and SRNL scientists

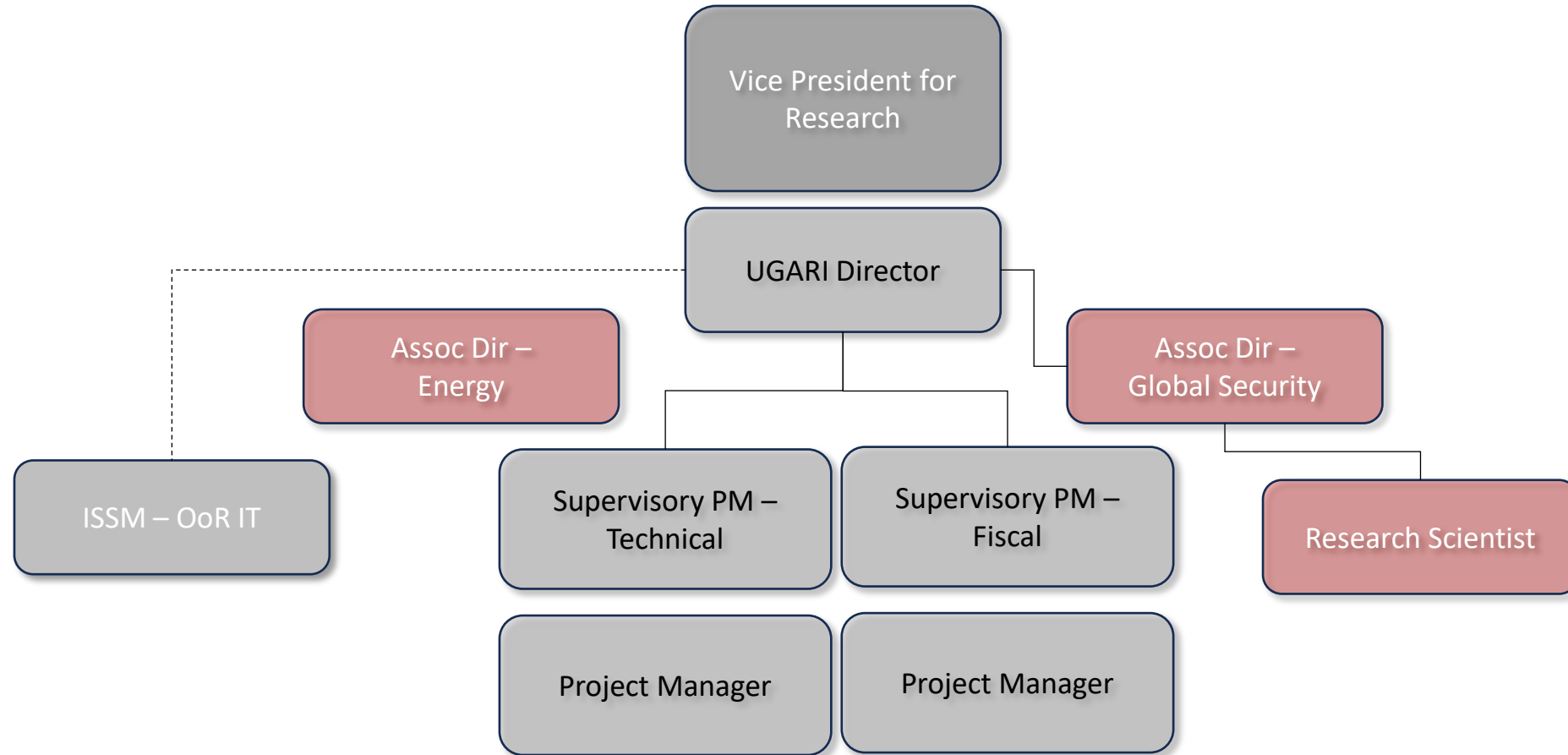
Project Management Support

Project manager time is available to be cost-shared with PIs that need the extra assistance on large, complex projects with DoD or other mission driven agencies

Developing - Technical Research Support

Research Scientists can develop and focus specific subject matter expertise in areas that are of interest to DoD or other mission driven agencies for expansion of UGA capabilities and additional proposal support

UGARI Organization



Matching Capability to Requirements

Advanced GeoAI – USACE ERDC

AI/Automated Assistance – USA – ARL, DAC

EDGE Computing – USA – ARL, DAC

Information Operations – USA – DAC

Atmospheric Modelling – DOE

Regulatory Policy – DOE

Regulatory Compliance – DOD – SERDP

AI/Groundwater Contaminants – DOE

Hydrology and Water Quality – USN

Coastal Resilience – USMC

Non-ionizing Radiation Effects – USA - ARL

UGARI Information Security

Information Systems Security Manager

Role: Support development of policies and procedures for data security at UGA, lead development of infrastructure and cloud-based solutions for handling of CUI at UGA, develop training resources for UGA staff to maintain compliance for access to and handling of CUI at UGA, work with UGA academic units to develop appropriate SSPs and other documents related to DoD research requiring CMMCv2 compliance, formulate appropriate cost recovery targets for faculty access to UGA CUI infrastructure and data security resources

UGARI Project Management Philosophy

Consistency Builds Relationships

- Serve as program POC
- Understand current/future funding priorities
- Increase competitive and appropriations edge
- Match PIs to opportunities

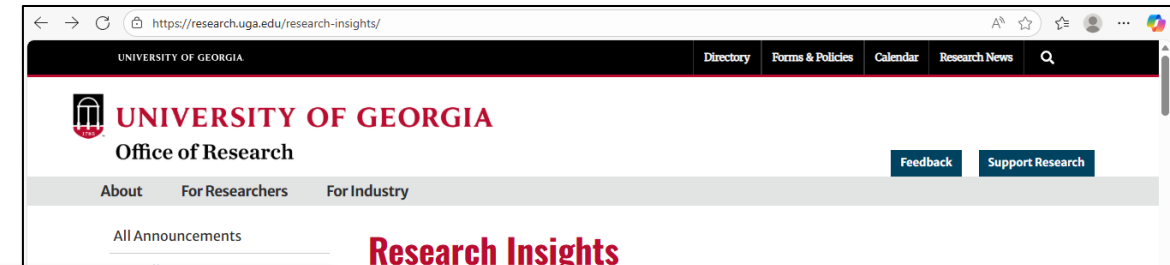
Pre-Award Requires Specialized Assistance

- Set expectations
- Assist with specialized proposal elements*
- Coordinate with research administrators

Unique Need For PM Services During PoP

- Facilitate frequent reports and meetings
- Analyze and justify finances
- Manage compliance and approvals
- Monitor and engage with subcontractors
- Alleviate burden on PIs

UGARI Opportunities



Research Insights

Sign up for Research Insights [monthly email newsletter](#).

All Announcements

FY2027 Faculty Seed Grants in the Sciences and Engineering

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The Office of Research announces the FY 2027 cycle for the [Faculty Seed Grants in the Sciences and Engineering](#).

The goal of the Faculty Seed Grants in the Sciences and Engineering is to enable faculty to launch new, promising lines of research for which resources are currently not available. These seed grants are intended to fund pilot research generating preliminary data that will be leveraged to compete for externally funded grant/contract opportunities and contribute to a sustainable program of research and scholarship. Basic and applied research in the social, life, physical sciences, and engineering are eligible for funding through this program. (Note: The Office of Research funds [research grants in Humanities and Arts](#) through a separate program managed by the Willson Center).

All faculty (tenure-track and non-tenure track) with research EFT (equivalent full-time) are eligible with the following exceptions: 1) Applicants may not have access to more than \$25,000 in institutional or discretionary research funding (e.g., start-up, salary returns, or IDC returns) during the award year (i.e., FY27); 2) Tenured applicants may not have received more than \$50,000 in institutional research support in the past three years (FY24 or later). Examples of institutional research support include bridge funding, a Presidential Seed Grant or other internal seed grant; and 3) An applicant may not have received a Faculty Seed Grant from this program within the last three years (an FY24 grant or later).

See the guidelines on the [Office of Research Internal Grants webpage](#). Answers to frequently asked questions, award conditions, and other information are on the [Faculty Seed Grants FAQs page](#).

The deadline for proposal submission is 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Grants for successful applications will be awarded with a start date of July 1, 2026 (FY27).



Network of UGA Support

Office of Strategic Research Development

Sponsored Projects Administration

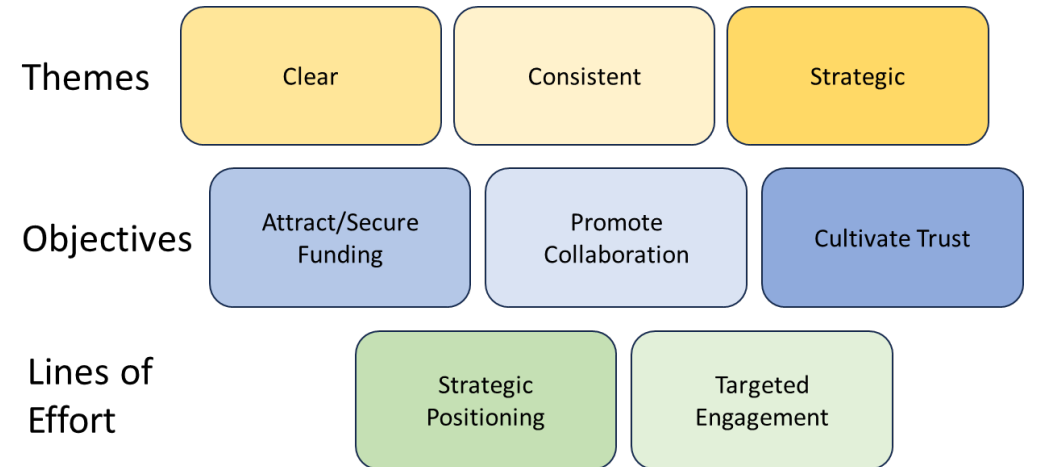
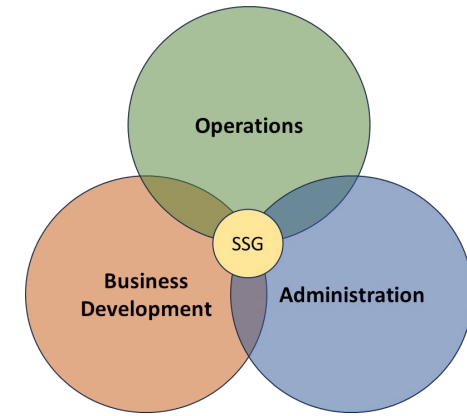
Office of Research Security and Export Control

Innovation Gateway

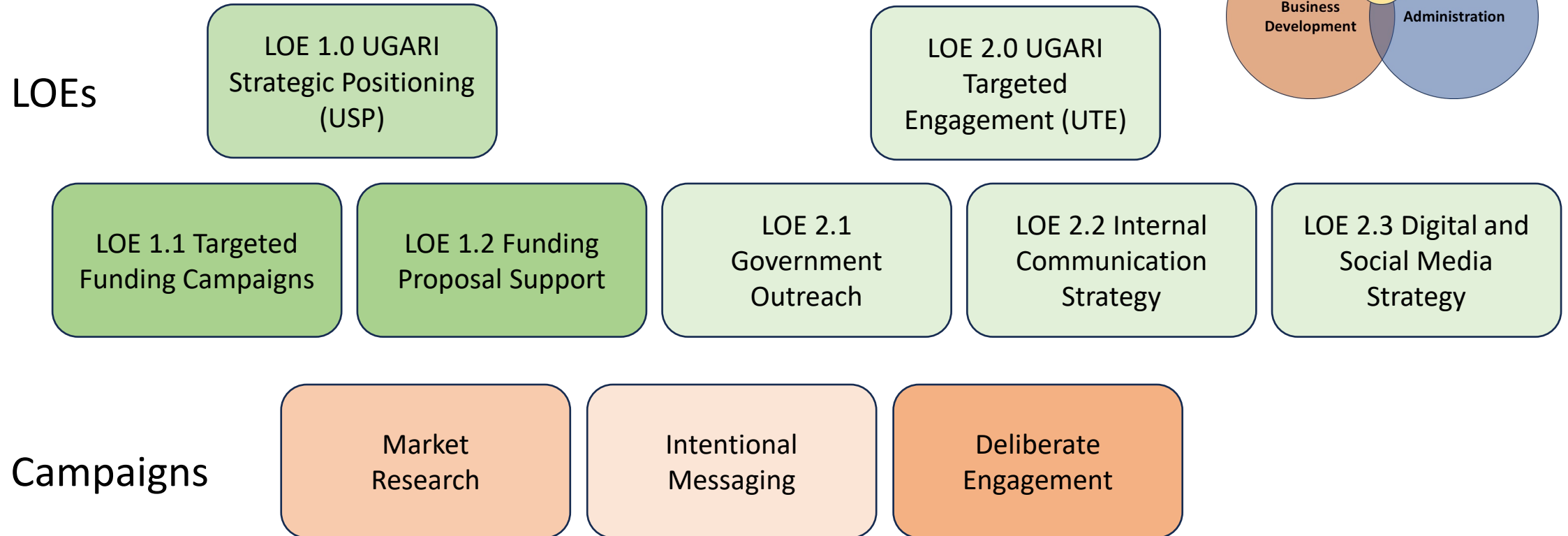
Centers, Institutes, and Core Facilities

Institutional Offices of Animal Care and Use, Biosafety, Research Safety, Human Subjects, etc.

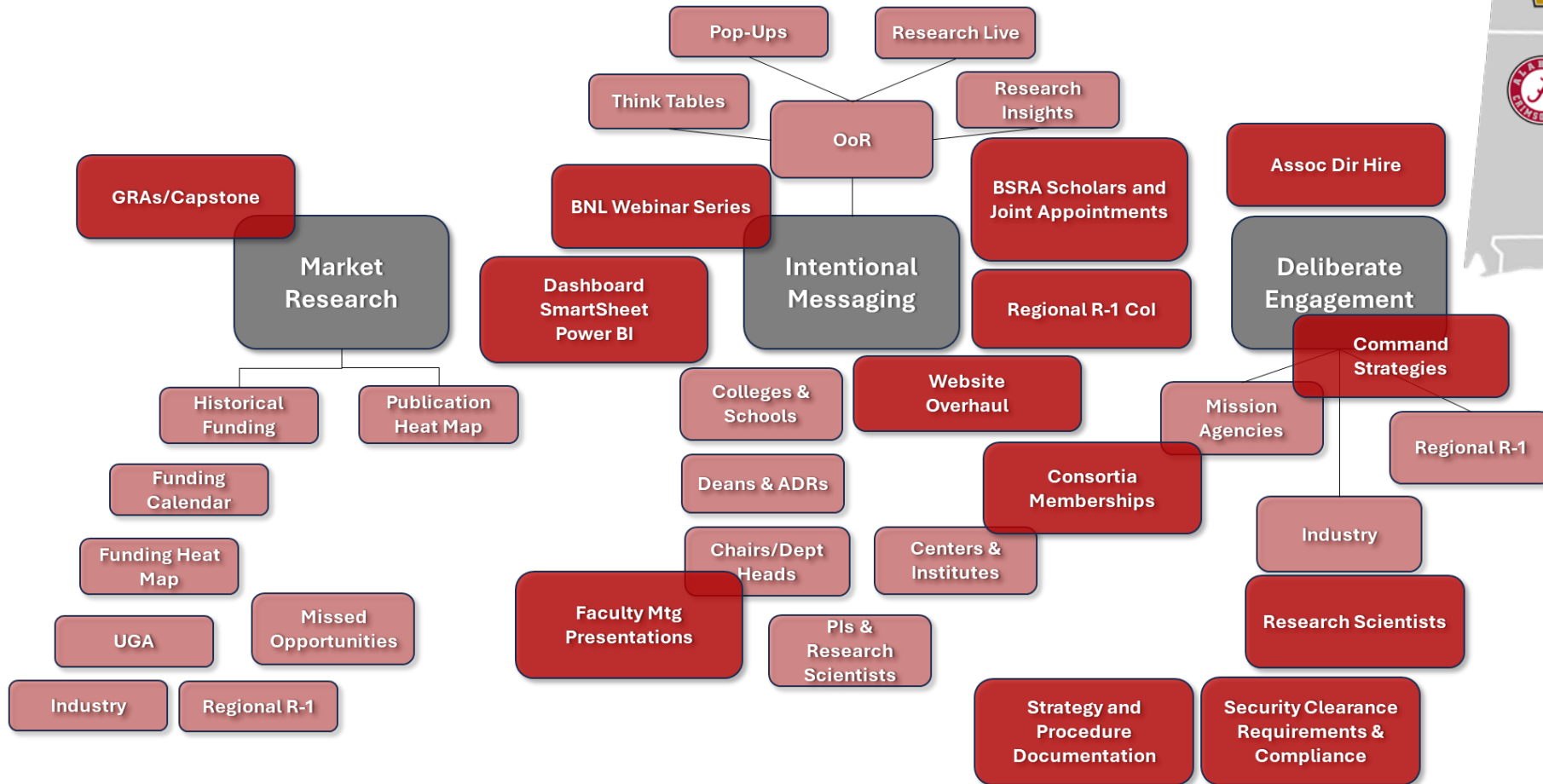
UGARI Strategy



UGARI Lines of Effort



UGARI Campaigns and Initiatives



In Closing

Progress Demands Innovation.

Fundamental and Applied
Science are Critical to National
Security.

UGARI will continue to match
Capability to Opportunity in the
Defense and Global Security
Community.



Questions and Further Discussion

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