

## UBSS Academic Integrity Committee Membership

The current membership of the Academic Integrity committee is 7 members (*as at March 2021*)

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[Associate Professor Wayne Smithson](#) Chair (Internal)

[Navpreet Kaur](#) (Secretary)

[Associate Professor Felix Stravens](#) (Internal)

[Assistant Professor Jotsana Roopram](#) (Internal)

[Assistant Professor Natasha Jacques](#) (Internal)

[Anurag Kanwar](#) (Internal)

[Assistant Professor Mohammad Akbar](#) (External)

A profile on each member is provided –

## CHAIR



### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WAYNE SMITHSON**

Wayne has held a number of senior finance positions including Finance Director for a number of national companies over a commercial career extending beyond 40 years. Most notable senior positions that include National Finance Director for Ernst & Young and Finance Director for the Bank of New Zealand in Australia. While his primary industry focus was in the financial services and insurance sectors, Wayne has experience across many industries including manufacturing, services and logistics.

Wayne has also had significant international experience in the Asia- Pacific region - where as Regional Finance Director for the region for a Swiss based professional services organization - he was involved in a number of key business acquisitions. Most recently he has owned and operated a successful Tax and Accounting practice.

As well as holding a Master of Business Administration and an undergraduate degree from Macquarie University in accounting, Wayne is a qualified CPA and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Australian institute of Management.

In addition to 40 years of commercial experience, Wayne has had an extensive career in teaching at Higher Education level. Wayne began to focus on a teaching in 2008 accepting a sessional lecturer position at Sydney University in 2008. In 2010 Wayne turned his attention to Higher Education Teaching as his focus profession and has taught at a number of universities and Colleges including Western Sydney University, Charles Sturt University, Federation University and Charles Darwin University.

Wayne has taught at both graduate and undergraduate levels across both Business and Accounting Disciplines, successfully combining a dynamic of theoretical and practical application drawing on his extensive years of commercial experience in particular at Board and Director Level.

Wayne is currently the **Program Director for the Bachelor of Accounting** at UBSS, an Associate Professor, a member of the Academic Senate and Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee at UBSS.

## SECRETARY



### **NAVPREET KAUR**

Navpreet completed her Bachelor of Commerce (Professional) in India from GND University in year 2015 before arriving in Australia.

Navpreet successfully completed her MBA (Accounting) in 2019 at UBSS.

She worked as a Student Assistant during Orientation at UBSS in T1, 2020 and as a Student Services Officer at UBSS, before assuming the role of **Assistant Academic Coordinator** in the Office of the Dean.

While operating with UBSS under 2 separate designations, she worked closely in assisting with students queries and offering contribution in the direction of achievement of student satisfaction.

Navpreet is the Secretary of the Academic Integrity Committee and the WHS committee.



## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FELIX STRAVENS**

Felix has an MBA in Strategic Management from the University of East London. His entire career has been in Marketing. His move into academia started at the University of Canberra as an Associate Professor in Advertising and Marketing. He was also Program Director for the UG and PG Marketing Communication degrees. At the University, he served on a number of Committees including the University Council.

After eight years, he moved to the UK and was Managing Director with NCC Education. This awarding body develops and markets Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Post Graduate Diplomas through 250 centers worldwide. In 2010, he was recognized by the Chartered Institute of Marketing and awarded Fellow status (FCIM).

On completion of his contract, he returned to Singapore and was on a contract with NYU – Tisch School of the Arts where he lectured in Marketing to post graduate students on the International Media Production course. He was then retained by the Marketing Institute of Singapore to conduct courses on Strategic Marketing and Global Brand Management.

He returned to Australia, and was on a short contract as Head of School with Southbank Institute of Technology in Brisbane. This is a vocational (TAFE) level college and he headed the School of Business and IT.

He then moved to Sydney and was Deputy Dean/Director of Teaching and Learning at King's Own Institute, a higher education provider offering courses in Accounting and TESOL. In May 2015, he accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer at the Australasian College of health & Wellness.

Felix is currently the **Deputy Dean – Academic**, overseeing the MBA and Bachelor of Business at UBSS, a fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute (FAMI) and a Certified Practicing Marketer (CPM).



## **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOTSANA ROOPRAM**

Jotsana has lectured for a number of years in the field of Hospitality Management at higher education institutions in South Africa. During this time, she worked closely with industry associates, developing and preparing students for junior management roles in the hospitality sector and mentoring junior staff for progression into senior roles. In the latter part of her career in South Africa, she worked in academic administration and management as Head of Department managing a faculty of lecturers from diverse fields such as business, hospitality, tourism, sport and journalism. She has a national Diploma in Hospitality Management, certificates in Assessment Design and Development and a moderators' license from the sector training authority of South Africa.

She attained a Postgraduate Diploma and a Master of Education, specializing in Higher Education (University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa) before emigrating to Australia in 2014. Prior to joining UBSS in 2016, she was the College Operations Manager at Navitas in Sydney.

Jotsana is the **Deputy Dean –Student Experience** at UBSS and reports directly to the Dean. She is a professional member of the Institute of Managers and Leaders. She has completed a Graduation Certificate in Higher Education Academic Practice at the Higher Education Leadership Institute (HELI) and a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration at UBSS.

Jotsana's expertise is in developing academic systems, policy implementation in administrative processes and procedures, and college operations.



## **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR NATASHA JACQUES**

Natasha completed her Bachelor of Arts degree (Major in Communicative English) in India and worked at HSBC Bank India as a Customer Service Representative, subject matter expert and Supervisor, ensuring a high quality customer experience for HSBC customers across the globe. Her experience in this field led her to the role of Training and Development Specialist, where she specialised in analysing training needs and the effectiveness of training. In this role, she also delivered soft skills and developmental and leadership training to employees within the organisation. Having gained nine years of corporate experience, Natasha moved to Australia to enhance her qualifications and skills in order to pursue a career in a dynamic organisation. Her goal is to utilize her knowledge and abilities in a career that will provide her with opportunities for continuous improvement, learning and growth, to enable her to leverage her full potential.

Natasha has worked as a Student Volunteer at the UBSS Graduation Ceremonies, as a Student Assistant at UBSS during the orientation weeks as well as a Peer Assistant Student Support Representative (PASS) for the Bachelor of Accounting program. Natasha was also a student representative of the Academic Senate and Academic Integrity committee at UBSS. She gained valuable experience with academic processes and practices in the business school and corporate higher education sector that enriched her skills set. Natasha also represented UBSS at the TEQSA conference in Melbourne 2019 where she contributed ideas from a student perspective towards student challenges and Partnership in Education.

Natasha completed an MBA (Accounting) in 2019 at UBSS and is employed as an **Administration Coordinator** in the Office of the Dean at UBSS. Natasha is also currently a lecturer at UBSS in the Undergraduate programs.

Natasha is a member of the International Managers and Leaders association (MIML), CPA Ambassador and a member of the Research Association of Australia.

Natasha is also Secretary of the Academic Senate and the Threshold Standards Audit committee.



## **ANURAG KANWAR**

Anurag has over 15 years' experience in higher education all within the private higher education space. She is the executive secretary of the GCA Board of Directors, and a member of the IHEA Audit and Risk committee.

She is a prolific commentator on LinkedIn with over 5000 followers.

She is a practicing lawyer specializing in the area of corporate governance and risk.

She is also an experienced lecturer and publishes in the area of business law. She is an associate member of the Australian risk management institute and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Managers and Leaders.

She is also a member of Law Ninjas online networking group for in-house lawyers and the former deputy convener of the admissions and compliance working group of IEAA.

Anurag is currently the **Compliance and Continuous Improvement Director** at Group Colleges Australia.



## **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MOHAMMAD AKBAR**

Mohammad has an MBA in Marketing from North South University (Bangladesh) and pursued a career in Marketing and Sales. Prior to moving to Australia, he worked in the ISP and Entertainment industry.

He has a second MBA in Professional Accounting from University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Mohammad has worked in the financial industry in Australia, having been employed by ANZ bank for almost four years. He then started teaching at vocational level in 2008. Since then, he has been teaching in vocational and higher education.

In addition, he is an Accountant and Company Secretary for an accounting practice since 2013 – this keeps him connected deeply with the accounting and financial industry in Australia.

Mohammad is currently an **Assistant Professor** and Member of AIC at UBSS. He is also the Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching) at Polytechnic Institute Australia overseeing the Bachelor of Business (Accounting).