
UBSS Academic Integrity Committee Membership

The current membership of the Academic Integrity committee is 6 members

(as at February 2022) –

Associate Professor Wayne Smithson Chair (Internal)

Maya El Ramy (Secretary)

Assistant Professor Jotsana Roopram (Internal)

Assistant Professor Natasha Jacques (Internal)

Assistant Professor Mohammad Akbar (External)

Dr. Kristina Nicholls (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 organisation - 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 Undergraduate programs** at UBSS Sydney campus, an Associate Professor, a member of the Academic Senate and Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee at UBSS.

SECRETARY



MAYA EL RAMY

Maya completed her degree as a fashion designer in 2004 at the Lebanese University and worked in Dubai for fifteen years as a regional brand manager for international prestige cosmetic brands.

She became a volunteer teacher in her local community school after completing her degree in community language teaching at Sydney University in 2017.

Maya completed in 2020 her Bachelor of Accounting degree at UBSS and was awarded the CPA Accounting award at UBSS. Maya is enrolled in the Executive MBA at UBSS and will commence in January 2022.

Maya is currently working as a **Team Leader** in Myer Sydney City. She is also the CPA ambassador and PASS (Pass Assisted Student Support) tutor at UBSS.

Maya is the Secretary of the Academic Integrity Committee.



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOTSANA ROOPRAM

Dip(Hospitality), DipEd., GradCertBusAdmin., GradCertHEd., M.Ed.

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 has a Postgraduate Diploma and a Master of Education, specialising in *Higher Education*. 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. She is a professional member of the Institute of Managers and Leaders. In 2019, she 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 has lectured the subject Team Leadership and Change Management in the Bachelor of Business program at UBSS.

Jotsana's expertise is in developing academic systems, policy implementation in administrative processes and procedures, online examination management and college operations. She chairs the Threshold Standards Audit committee and is Secretary of the GCA Executive and Management committee and the Audit and Risk committee.

Her research interests include leadership in higher education, student engagement in online learning, governance and quality assurance in higher education. Jotsana has published articles in the areas of online learning, remote proctoring and the student experience. She is the recipient of the best author award for the best academic article in the UBSS Publication Series July 2021.



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.



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).



DR KRISTINA NICHOLLS (EXTERNAL)

Kris is currently the **Director, Academic Integrity** with Torrens University Australia, THINK Education and Media Design School and is responsible for academic integrity across Torrens Global Education Services in Australia and New Zealand. Previously, Kris was the Associate Dean of Business and Hospitality with Torrens University. Prior to joining Torrens, Kris' prior was Head, School of Business with Melbourne Institute of Technology. Kris is based in Melbourne.

Kris worked with RMIT as a Lecturer in Marketing for ten years. Kris joined Kaplan Business School in 2009 as the National Lecturer in Charge of Marketing, Management and HR and took on the role of National Academic Director in 2011. In 2012/13, her role expanded to encompass the academic guardianship of the Kaplan owned Carrick Education Group. Kris has held several key strategic roles with Kaplan including Kaplan Australia Director, Quality & Compliance and GM, Learning and Development for the Kaplan owned, Franklyn Scholar group of RTOs.

Her philosophy in education, is that students are not numbers but are clients and that their life-long journey of learning should be both personally rewarding and industry relevant. She shares her passion for education, learning and integrity with her students and peers and endeavours at all times, to inspire those around her.

Kris actively supports the Fight Cancer Foundation, is a member of Women on Boards and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.