

UBSS Academic Senate Membership

The current membership of the Academic Senate is 13 members (8 internal & 5 external) as at *November 2023*.

[Professor Jim Mienczakowski](#) – Chair (External)

[Professor Craig Ellis](#) – Deputy Chair (Internal)

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

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

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

[Associate Professor Cyril Jankoff](#) (Internal)

[Associate Professor Richard Xi](#) (Internal)

[Adjunct Professor Tom O'Connor](#) (Internal)

[Professor Ashok Chanda](#) (Internal)

[Adjunct Professor Art Phillips](#) (External)

[Adjunct Professor Om Huvanandana](#) (External)

[Professor Ray Hayek](#) (External)

[Dr Barry Gordon](#) (External)

A profile on each member is provided –

Senate Members Profiles

CHAIR - EXTERNAL



PROFESSOR JIM MIENCZAKOWSKI

Dip CSSD. Royal Central School of Speech & Drama (Uni Lond), Cert. Ed. (Lond), B.Ed (Uni Lond), MA (King's College Lond), PhD (Griff)

Jim has lived and taught in a number of countries during a career in education which spans more than 40 years. Earlier working in commercial theatre and radio in London he eventually moved fulltime into education in 1979.

Jim is internationally recognised for his contribution to, and work in, founding an academic research methodology combining performance and research (critical ethnodrama) which is intended for use by graduate arts students and arts and health practitioners seeking to voice the concerns of marginalised communities. He has published extensively in this area.

From 2013 Professor Mienczakowski was CEO, President and Pro Vice Chancellor of Curtin Malaysia until he and his family returned to Australia in early 2020. Prior to joining Curtin, Jim lived in the UAE for several years where he was Executive Director of Higher Education in Abu Dhabi and then later Vice-Chancellor of the Abu Dhabi Education Council's Emirate's College.

Earlier in his career he also held senior leadership positions in a number of higher education institutions in Australia, including Deputy Vice-Chancellor roles at Victoria University and Central Queensland University.

Much of Jim's work in the last decade or two has entailed successfully taking institutions through accreditation processes and improving the quality of learning, research and service offered to students.

Currently a Higher Education Consultant, Jim continues to serve on the Editorial Board of Sage's *Qualitative Research* and as a reviewer for a number of other journals. In 2019 he was made an Emeritus Professor of Curtin University for his contributions and services to higher education and the university.

DEPUTY CHAIR



PROFESSOR CRAIG ELLIS

BCom Hons, PhD

Dr Craig Ellis has over 25-years' higher education industry experience with the last 11-years in senior management and executive roles, including the positions of Dean at Asia Pacific International College, Associate Dean (Academic) and Acting Executive Dean at Western Sydney University, and Non-executive Director of Western Sydney University Enterprises (formerly UWS College). Prior to his appointment as Dean at Astra Institute of Higher Education, Craig was Dean - Director of Academic Studies at the Australian College of Applied Psychology. Craig currently also holds the position of Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University.

Outside of his professed expertise in Finance, Craig is expert in teaching and learning, quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, with a specific emphasis on tracking and analysing student progression and performance in higher education, and developing strategies in response to identified issues. He also led the development of university strategy in the TAFE/VET arena, growing and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships through engagement with TAFE and VET partners. Craig has a passion for the transformative value of higher education to change lives and a vast experience in curriculum development and quality assurance processes.

Craig is an active researcher and has completed the supervision of several doctoral students. He has a rich history in research authoring more than 60 articles, as well as being an academic journal referee, textbook referee, and formerly an ERA Peer Reviewer.

Craig is an Adjunct Professor at UBSS and teaching subjects in the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Program.

SECRETARY



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 a **Senior 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.



ASSOCIATE 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 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. Prior to joining UBSS in 2016, she was the College Operations Manager at Navitas in Sydney. Her expertise is in developing academic systems, policy implementation in administrative processes and procedures, online examination management and campus operations.

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. She has a Postgraduate Diploma and a Master of Education, specialising in *Higher Education*. Jotsana is a PhD candidate at Federation University. Her current research focus and thesis is on the impact of online learning on the international student experience.

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 first UBSS Publication Series, July 2021.

Jotsana has lectured the subject Team Leadership and Change Management in the Bachelor of Business program at UBSS.

She chairs the Threshold Standards Audit committee and is Secretary of the GCA Board of Directors, Executive and Management committee and the Audit and Risk committee.

Jotsana is the **Deputy Dean – Academic** at UBSS and is the **Campus Director** of the Sydney campus. She is a professional member of the Institute of Managers and Leaders and a member of Australian Computer Society.



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.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CYRIL JANKOFF

MBA, CPA, LLB, PhD, BBus, Grad Dip Tax, FIML

Cyril is a regular speaker and trainer in Australia and overseas in relation to the buy-side and sell-side contracting, and associated areas including business acumen/awareness, business improvement, negotiations, meetings, contact and commercial law, risk and finance. Throughout his over thirty-year career he has worked in diverse industries and practiced as a public accountant, financial controller, solicitor, in-house counsel, country manager and a business consultant. He also mentors in the above areas. Cyril has taught at all corporate levels and since 1986 he has continually taught a range of business subjects to vocational, undergraduate and graduate university students.

His advice has been sought in the creation, costing, pricing, execution, management, dispute resolution and litigation of many commercial contracts. Included in the above is over 20 years of experience as a forensic accountant and expert witness where he still investigates and acts as an expert witness in commercial contract dispute resolution. He assisted the *Australian Corporate Lawyers Association (ACLA)* in their July 2012 *Reforming Australian Contract Law* submission to the *Australian Government* and is an Advisory Council member for the *International Association for Contract and Commercial Management (IACCM)*. In addition to his technical knowledge and skills Cyril has extensive experience in local and international training and education program design, implementation and presentation in contracting and wider management areas.

He has written two books. The first is his 450-page *Manage Your Contracts – A practical start to finish guide for contracting professionals* book is now in its 4th Edition. The second is his 250-page 2018 book *Tools to Improve Contract Outcomes – A practical guide to contracting professionals*. He is currently completing *Finance for Managers and Procurement Professionals*. The audience for all books (and corporate training programs) is non-legally and non-finance trained buy-side and sell-side contracting and general managerial staff.

When he is not training, he splits his week by working some days with a solicitor and the other as Finance Director for a professional services organisation.

He is Certified by the International Association for Contract and Commercial Management as an Expert Level Supplier Relationship Management Professional (“SRME”). Over the years Cyril has been on many CPA Australia committees and was a member of its Disciplinary Committee which disciplined CPA Australia members for non-compliance with its By-Laws.

Cyril is currently the **Program Director** at the UBSS Melbourne campus.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RICHARD XI

Cert Bus (UNSW), Cert Ec and Bus (Fudan). Dip Acc (SIT), Dip Interp (NSIT), B. Htl Mgt (SIT), Grad Cert Tourism Management (SIT), Grad Cert China Stud (USyd), Grad Cert Bus Admin (UBSS), MA Asian Studies (UNSW)

Richard Xi is the **Deputy Program Director Postgraduate Program** at UBSS.

Before Richard relocated to Australia, his professional career commenced at the *Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Tourism* where he gained several years of experience in hotel management, project management as well as staff development and training.

In 1998 he returned to China and was appointed a Senior Business Development Adviser by a *Sino-Holland joint venture in Shanghai* to provide advice to the JV's business development strategy.

Before he joined UBSS, Richard worked at *Western Sydney University (WSU)* and in charge of student activities and events at *WSU the College Westmead Campus*. He was the chief presenter in the Colombo Plan seminar 'China's past, present and future' organized by WSU Law School and a chief presenter in WSU the College's 'Cultural and Language Exchange Program (CLEP)'. Prior to WSU, he worked at *UNSW Global (University of New South Wales)* as a business development coordinator, marketing officer, China project manager in coordinating UNSW Global/UNSW's international business plan and project with China.

He was a cultural adviser and editor to Alan Manly's book 'The Unlikely Entrepreneur' (*Chinese version*), and a cultural adviser to the book 'Doing Business in China' (published by UNSW press).

Richard is Secretary of the Grade Review committee and the Course Advisory committee.



ADJUNCT PROFESSOR TOM O'CONNOR

Adjunct Professor Tom O'Connor completed a *Bachelor of Arts* (with majors in English and Legal Studies and a Diploma of Education (with English, Drama and Business Studies). He then went on to complete a *Graduate Diploma of Educational Administration*, a *Graduate Diploma of Religious Education*, a *Master of Education* (Contemporary Language Education) and a *Master of Arts* (Online Education), a *Master of Educational Policy* (International) and a *Doctorate* in Postmodern Theory.

Dr O'Connor commenced his teaching career in secondary schools focusing on English, Drama and Media Studies. He has taught at secondary schools in Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States. In Australia he worked at CRC St Albans where he became English Co-ordinator. He held leadership positions at CRC Sydenham and As Deputy Principal-Curriculum he oversaw the successful amalgamation of three schools into the *Caroline Chisholm Catholic College*. He was part of the team that created the first VCE English curriculum (1988).

He combined his secondary teaching with lecturing at *Griffith University* and *Central Queensland University* in Arts and Business education. Dr O'Connor developed the Business Curriculum for the Saudi VET sector (2001) before he moved full time into higher education as Head of Business at *Ras Al Khaimah Women's' College* (2002-5), part of the Higher Colleges of Technology system of the United Arab Emirates. He was appointed Project Manager to develop the Victoria International School Sharjah, a joint project between the governments of Victoria and Sharjah (UAE) designed to bring Australian pedagogy to the emirate.

He returned to Australia to take up the role of Curriculum Director and Acting Principal at Thomas Carr College. He commenced partnerships with Lianyungang Foreign Language School, and Wenzhou No.21 School to deliver the VCE in China (2012). He then moved to Firbank Grammar School as Head of Transnational Education, where he expanded the number of schools delivering VCE offshore to ten, making Firbank the largest provider of VCE offshore.

Dr O'Connor has written and directed musical productions throughout his career. "*Here's to Macbeth*" was staged in Melbourne and performed at the University of California, Davis. "*Test – a Cricket Musical*" was sponsored by the Sunshine City Council and performed on the Kinder Smith Reserve, Braybrook. He produced the first ever version of "*Pirates of Penzance*" in the Middle East at the Ras Al Khaimah Sailing Club, sponsored by the Ras Al Khaimah Police Department. "*HeartQuest – a celtic opera*" was performed at the "Feile an Phobail" in Belfast, Northern Ireland as part of the peace process and was sponsored by the European Union and the State Department of the United States Government. "*Heartquest*" was performed at the Athenaeum theatre in July 2002

Dr O'Connor is currently a Fellow of the *UBSS Centre for Scholarship and Research* and a *consulting Principal* at *Shanghai Normal University Tianhua High School*.

Associate Professor Tom O'Connor is Associate Director, Postgraduate Studies and Director, Special Projects for the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor at UBSS Melbourne.



PROFESSOR ASHOK CHANDA

MBA, PhD

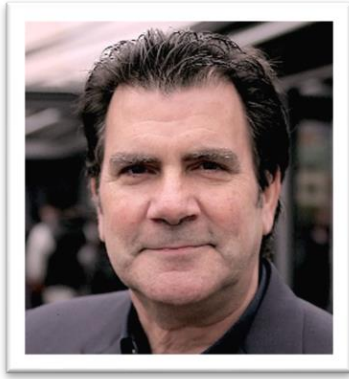
Dr Chanda has a great passion for building 'New Age Learning' and 'Digital Transformation' in education industry. Ashok has been driving online MBA and Technology Enhanced Learning, building a change from a conventional learning delivery to an online learning delivery. In past, Ashok was associated with Australian Institute of Business and Education Centre for Australia, wherein he played a key role in building these organisations. Ashok has extensive experience of education management, compliance and academic management.

He has authored three business books on business strategy, organisational performance and strategic HRM and numerous research papers. He has also been involved in academic leadership being a part of Academic Board of APIC, AIB, Universal Higher Education and Governing Board of ASBM University and Editorial Board of ASBM International journal. He has also actively participated in teaching being an adjunct faculty with Indian Institute of Management, Asian School of Business Management and lecturer with UNISA, Australia

Ashok in his career spanning more than 25 years has been a business professional and has lead large corporations as a Chief Executive and at a senior management level in oil and gas, construction, mining, energy and logistics industries and has been instrumental in its growth and success. Ashok has built capabilities with a diverse expertise in global leadership roles covering established and emerging markets.

He is currently the **Executive Dean** of UBSS.

External Senate Members



ADJUNCT PROFESSOR ART PHILLIPS

Owner | director | composer | producer, 101 MUSIC PTY LTD and ART PHILLIPS MUSIC DESIGN

Art Phillips is a two-time Emmy Award winning composer with credits spanning feature films, television, advertising and documentary series including Santa Barbara, Neighbours, Missing Persons Unit, Outback House, Pirate Islands: The Lost Treasure of Fiji, The Flying Vet, The Secret Lives of Sleepwalkers, Catalyst, Dead Tired, Made in China, Fatal Bond, Signal One and Sher Mountain Mystery.

As guitarist, arranger, orchestrator, musical director and record producer, Art has performed live on concert tours and record albums for Barry Manilow, Minnie Riperton, Demis Roussos, John Rowles, Ricky May, Burl Ives, The Carpenters television specials and Sally Kellerman, to name a few. Composer of over 100 production music albums for companies such as Universal Production Music, FirstCom Music, 5Alarm Music, Sonoton, One Music, Bruton, Chappell Recorded Music Library, Groovers Music, Access Music, EVO, and his own production music label 101 MUSIC PTY LTD, now with 42 album releases in the 101 Music catalogue.

His production music has been used in television shows throughout the world including Cold Case Files, Hollywood Medium, America's Most Wanted, Current Affair (US), Celebrity Profile, NYPD Blue, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Survivor, 60 Minutes, Dancing With The Stars, The Dog Whisperer, E True Hollywood Story, The Ricki Lake Show, Good Morning America, Amazing Medical Stories, Harry's Practice, The Great Outdoors, Dateline, Extra-The Entertainment Magazine Show, E-News Daily, Fox Sports, Lost JFK Tapes The Assassination, National Geographic., NBC Sports, NFL Redzone Replay, Celebrity Page, Weather Caught On Camera, Secrets of the Earth, Fugitive Task Force and The USA Today Show. In 2018, he was nominated by the Production Music Association 'Mark Awards' (USA) for 'Best Jazz Artist' for his album 'Italian Holiday' (101M032) featuring Phillips on electric and acoustic guitars, released by his record label 101 Music Pty Ltd. Also, that year, Phillips received a 'Global Music Award' for this same album, 'Italian Holiday'.

Art is the longest standing President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers (AGSC), 2001 ~ 2008, and was Vice President from 1992 ~ 2000. Art Phillips obtained a 'Master of Music Studies' from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music / Griffith University in 1999.

In 2016, Art was appointed Deputy Chair of the 'Academic Board of The Australian Institute of Music' (AIM.) He is a councillor for 'Music Australia', formerly known as 'The Music Council of Australia', representing 'Music in Film and Television', 2005 ~ current. He is also 'International Relations Liaison' for the 'Australian Guild of Screen Composers', and acts for the AGSC with observer status on the 'Music Creators of North America' (MCNA).

Phillips has passed on his knowledge and expertise to countless students at Universities and Institutions across Australia and abroad, and is an active and valued member of the global music community. Art is currently the Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and is also a lecturer at UBSS in the postgraduate program.



ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OM HUVANANDANA

Dr Om has been teaching Economics and Management subjects for a few MBA programs in Thailand and abroad, including, Thammasat University, Chulalongkorn University, National Institute of Development and Administration, Burapha University, Rajaphat Rumbhaipunnee, DePaul University, USA, East China University of Science and Technology, South Shanghai, China, and Bedfordshire University, Yangon Campus, Myanmar.

Om has served as a Board member of Webster University Thailand and an Academic committee member of Rajaphat Rumbhaipunnee.

In addition, he has served for a number of years working in a joint venture company between Thailand and Belgium in zinc smelting business and spent many years as an administrator of MBA and DBA program in a number of public and private universities in Thailand.

Om earned his Bachelor's Degree in Commerce (Economics) at University of Newcastle, Australia, his Master degree of Arts in Economics at Thammasat University, Thailand and his Doctor of Business Administration at Indiana University, USA.

Dr OM is an Adjunct Professor at UBSS.



PROFESSOR RAY HAYEK

BSc(Hons:1), MChiro., PhD., FICC., FACC., Cert., HEd., Mgt.

Professor Hayek graduated with a Bachelor of Anatomy with Honors division 1 in Anatomy from *University of New South Wales*, Masters of Chiropractic and PhD in neuroscience from *Macquarie University*. He also holds a Certificate in Higher Education Management from *Macquarie University* and is a Fellow of the International College of Chiropractic and a Founding Fellow of the *Australian College of Chiropractic*.

Professor Hayek has been involved in higher education in various capacities over the last 26 years. He has held many teaching and leadership roles including, lecturing in health and medical sciences like, Anatomy, Research Methodology, Clinical Epidemiology, Differential Diagnosis and Clinical Neurology. He was the Director of Research, Assistant Head of the Department of Health and Chiropractic and Director of the Centre for Chiropractic at *Macquarie University*.

Professor Hayek served for many years on a range of professional and University academic boards including: Executive Member of the Council on *Chiropractic Education Australasia* and Member of their Accreditation Committee, Governor on the Board of the Australian Spinal Research Foundation, Macquarie University's Academic Senate, Foundation Chair of the Consortium of Chiropractic Institutions Australasia, Vice President and Chair of the Research Committee of the *Australian Spinal Research Foundation*.

Professor Hayek is actively involved in clinical and basic research initiatives, which include: Spinal cord injury and rehabilitation, spinal pain relay mechanisms and the neurological and physiological impact of musculoskeletal management protocols. He has published over 180 scientific and professional papers and is a frequent speaker at local and international scientific and professional conferences. He was the recipient of the 2007 University Invention Disclosure Prize for developing a Spinal Cord Injury Electrical Stimulation Model and the 2005 recipient of the Innovation and Commercialization Award for Telemedicine at *Macquarie University*.

Professor Hayek is currently spearheading Higher Education in Health and Wellness training at *the Australasian College of Health and Wellness*.



DR BARRY GORDON

Barry has had an extensive career in large infrastructure, construction and manufacturing projects. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the areas of project management, strategy development, risk, governance and probity management.

Barry's current role is Director, Contracts and Compliance with Transport for NSW where he manages commercial, compliance and revenue management for the electronic ticketing systems. Previously he has held a number of procurement, commercial and supply chain positions for a number of private enterprises such as Hatch, Downer and MMEM.

Barry currently has board positions with the Institute of Managers & Leaders and the Infants home. He is a Chartered Manager through the UK's Chartered Management Institute and regularly mentors through the Institute of Managers & Leaders and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply.

Barry is a Fellow of the Institute of Management and Leaders, a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply Australia, a Certified Practitioner, Australian Human Resources Institute and a Graduate Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors

Barry holds a Graduate Certificate in Business and Technology (University of NSW), a Master of Business Administration (Newcastle University), Master of Science in Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain (*University of Salford*), and a Doctorate of Business Administration (*Newcastle University*) and is currently completing a Master of Commercial Law (*Melbourne University*).