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## GCA Workplace Health and Safety Committee Membership

The current membership of the WHS committee is 6 members (*as at January 2024*) –

**Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley** – Chair (Internal)

**Associate Professor Jotsana Roopram** (Secretary)

**Professor Ashok Chanda** (Internal)

**Associate Professor Seán O’Hanlon** (Internal)

**Jason Whitfield** (Internal)

**Pedram Layegh** (Internal)

A profile on each member is provided -

## CHAIR



### **EMERITUS PROFESSOR GREG WHATELEY**

*DipT., B.Ed., B.Ed(Mus)., GradDipEdAdmin.,M.Ed(Mus).,Prof.D.,CertIVTAE. FAIM*

Emeritus Professor Whateley completed a *Diploma of Teaching* (with majors in Music and Psychology), a *Bachelor of Education* (Curriculum Design and Development), a *Bachelor of Music Education* (with a music education focus), a *Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration* (with a focus on Organisational Behaviour), a *Master of Education* (Assessment and Evaluation) and a *Doctorate* in Virtual Pedagogy. Throughout his teaching career he has maintained a keen interest in how and why people learn.

Dr Whateley began his teaching career (1975 – 1988) in the area of music and arts education at both primary and secondary level. He has taught at every level of formal education (K – PhD) and has either, taught and/or researched, in four States and five Countries.

He commenced his work in the tertiary sector at the *University of Tasmania* in Hobart (1989-90) as a Lecturer in Music Education. He moved to *Griffith University* on the Gold Coast (1991-1999) as a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Music Education. He served as Head of School - Arts and during that time managed the Film and Television Music postgraduate awards at the University and the *Queensland Conservatorium of Music* where he also served as Deputy Dean (External Relations). He became Associate Professor and Director of the *Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music* (2000-2003) where he co-founded (with Ian Bofinger) Australia's first 'Virtual Conservatorium'. He also held the position of Head of School - Arts and Manager, Business Initiatives in the Faculty of Education and Creative Arts.

He took the position of General Manager and Professorial Head of School at the *Australian Institute of Music* (2004 – mid 2005). He also held the position of Senior Visiting Fellow at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales (2006 - 2008) and Director of Education and Quality at the National Centre for Language Training (an International Centre of Excellence at the University of New South Wales) from mid 2005 to end 2008. Greg held the position of Senior Visiting Fellow at Wesley Institute (2005- 2011) where he chaired the Academic Board and managed the Master of Music program (Arts Management strand). In 2008 Greg was appointed Principal of the *Australian International Conservatorium of Music*. He was also Consulting Chair of Arts Management at the Sydney Opera House in association with the Australian Institute of Music. In 2011, Greg accepted the post of Deputy Dean at *UWSCollege, University of Western Sydney* and later became the Dean of *The College* (Western Sydney University). For seven+ years Greg was the Chair of the Academic Board at the *Australian Institute of Music (AIM)*. Greg's teaching areas include Teaching Pedagogy, Human Behaviour, Organisational Leadership, Organisational Behaviour, Critical Management, Qualitative Research Methodology and Music History & Form.

Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley is currently **Consulting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Group Colleges Australia** researching and writing in the areas of Quality Management and eQuality. Greg retired from Teaching Research, Management and Leadership in October 2019. He is author of more than 320 external

publications and advises in the areas of accreditation, quality assurance, government reporting, eLearning, mLearning, bLearning and Hybrid teaching and learning.

He is currently a Member of the Editorial Board for the *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change*; a Reviewer for the *British Educational Research Journal*; a Reviewer for *IGI Global*; Co-Editor of the *GCA Publication Series*; Chair of the Board of Directors, *Australian Academy of Music and Performing Arts*, Chair of the Academic Board of *Stanfort Academy (Singapore)*; Chair of the Academic Senate of *UBSS*, Chair of the Academic Board of *the Australian Guild of Music Education*, Chair of the Advisory Board, *PAX Institute*, Member of *Elite Education Council*, Director *Group Colleges Australia*, and Chair and President, *Musicum20*. Greg is also a Fellow of the *Australian Institute of Management* and a Fellow of the *Australian College of Research*.

## SECRETARY



### **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, Academic Integrity committee and is Secretary of the GCA Board of Directors 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 (IML) and a member of Australian Computer Society (ACS).



## **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.



## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SEÁN O'HANLON**

Seán is the **Director (Staff Experience)** and **Campus Director** of the Melbourne CBD Campus.

Seán is passionate about International Education, having been an international student himself, studying in England, France and Spain. After graduating Seán relocated to Spain where he started his career as an *English Teacher* and then moved into student support joining *the Spanish American Institute*, the study abroad arm of the *University of Wisconsin*.

Seán relocated to Sydney at the end of 2004 and joined an international vocational college in June 2005 as Student Services Coordinator. In 2010 he joined *Western Sydney University - The College* as Student Advisor, being the first point of contact for all issues that were non- academic. During Seán's time at *WSU - The College*, he was granted Innovation Funding to launch the Cultural and Language Exchange Program, to bring local and international students together and was selected as staff representative for the Broadening Horizons program, joining students on an academic and cultural trip to China.

During this time, he also provided focus on the staff experience – complimentary to the HR programs available.

From 2016, Seán was employed by a private tertiary provider as Manager, Student Experience, Community Safety and Staff Support and has focused on developing support programs for students including orientation, internship, study and life skills, graduation programs and for staff through the launch of the President's Excellence Awards.



## **JASON WHITFIELD**

Jason joined Group Colleges Australia, (GCA) in April 2003 and has helped to lead the enormous growth in technology use within GCA during that time.

Jason leads the GCA IT Department, implementing new technology for both teaching and administration, whilst ensuring that all technology in use at GCA is highly reliable, secure, and cost-effective.

In 2005, Jason managed the deployment of Interactive Whiteboard technology for all GCA classrooms, enabling GCA to deliver a superior student experience through a more engaging classroom environment.

In the same year, Jason managed the implementation of the Moodle Learning Management System, which is now used by thousands of other education institutions.

In 2015, Jason managed the transition of the entire GCA IT infrastructure to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud platform, enabling the IT Infrastructure to become more scalable and flexible as the technology needs of GCA continued to grow.

In 2020, Jason managed the transition of GCA from face-to-face to fully online learning, by deploying ultra-modern classroom AV equipment and the Blackboard Collaborate online learning platform.

Jason has a Bachelor of Technology (Information and Communication Systems) from Macquarie University, and is a member of the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

Jason also has over 20 years' experience in Windows PC, Server and Network Administration, as well as extensive experience in Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, and Online Learning.

Jason is the **Chief Technical Officer** at Group Colleges Australia.



## **PEDRAM LAYEGH**

Pedram Layegh completed a degree in Bachelor of Industrial Engineering (with a major in Manufacturing Systems), an Advance Diploma of Management, and a Bachelor degree in Music (with a major in classical performance). He began his engineering career in 2008 as an Expert in Industrial Affairs at the Deputy Office of the Ministry of Industries and Mines in Tehran, Iran. In the same year, he began his music teaching career in private music schools in Tehran.

In 2011, he migrated to Australia to pursue his musical career professionally. He graduated from the Australian Institute of Music (aim) in 2015. From 2013 to 2018, he worked as a music teacher at Madakto Music School while completing his Bachelor Degree. He continued his teaching privately up to the present.

In 2016, Pedram co-founded the Eishan Ensemble and began performing classical guitar. He and his group released three world music albums, combining jazz, classical, and traditional Persian music. He performed as a classical guitarist with Eishan Ensemble in both local (music festivals and venues throughout Australia, such as Vivid in Sydney, WOMAD Festival in Adelaide, and etc.) and international music festivals (Yilan Festival in Taiwan, the 5th International Rondalla and String Festival in the Philippines, and jazz festivals in Spain and Portugal).

Pedram was employed as a Concierge at the UBSS Sydney campus from 2017 to 2023. He is currently a **Duty Manager** at the UBSS Sydney campus, managing a team of Duty Officers. He is a member of the Work, Health, and Safety Committee (WHS) at Group Colleges Australia.