

UBSS Academic Integrity Committee Membership

The current membership of the Academic Integrity committee is at 5 members (as at January 2024)

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

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

[Professor Ashok Chanda](#) (Internal)

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

[Associate Professor Kris Nicholls](#) (External)

A profile on each member is provided –

CHAIR



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 and a member of Australian Computer Society.

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. She was also nominated the CPA Ambassador for UBSS. 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 **Student and Academic Experience 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), member of the Australian Computer Society.

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



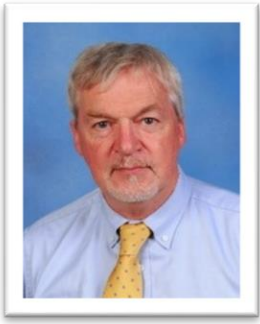
PROFESSOR ASHOK CHANDA

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 TOM O'CONNOR

Associate 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 Coordinator. 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.



DR KRIS NICHOLLS (EXTERNAL)

Graduate - Australian Institute of Company Directors
Graduate Certificate of Learning and Teaching, Education - Torrens University Australia
Doctor of Business Administration - Victoria University, Australia
Master of Business Marketing - RMIT University, Australia

Whether in front of a lecture theatre filled with students, managing a team of academics, or dealing with the complex regulatory framework related to education, Dr. Kris Nicholls brings a practical, educative, and passionate approach to her professional life.

Kris commenced her professional teaching career as an art teacher with the Victorian Education Department. She moved on to pursue a career in the hospitality and tourism industry. Within this capacity, Kris managed and operated a multiple-award winning up-market hotel in Melbourne and personally won several national industry awards for marketing and hospitality operations. She served on the Council of the Australian Hotels Association for four years.

Kris has had an extensive career within the education sector. She has held varied roles such as the Head, Hospitality, Tourism and Cookery with the Gordon Institute TAFE in Geelong and worked with RMIT as a Lecturer in Marketing and Management teaching locally and in Hong Kong and Singapore. After RMIT, Kris joined Kaplan Business School as the National Lecturer in Charge of Marketing, Management and HR and took on the role of National Academic Director in 2011. Her role expanded to encompass the academic guardianship of the Kaplan owned Carrick Education, and Franklyn Scholar Groups. Kris held several key strategic leadership roles with Kaplan including Kaplan Australia's Director, Quality & Compliance and General Manager, Learning and Development.

Prior to returning to Melbourne Institute of Technology as Head, School of Business, Kris was most recently the Director, Academic Integrity [DAI] with Torrens University Australia, and was responsible for academic integrity across Torrens and its associated schools in Australia and New Zealand. Within that role Kris initiated the inaugural Australian Academic Integrity Network Forum 2021 and is the current national winner of the 2023 Tracey Bretag Academic Integrity Award. Prior to her promotion to DAI, Kris was the Associate Dean, Business and Hospitality at Torrens University.

Kris' 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 academic integrity with her students and peers.

Kris' hobbies include light aircraft touring, entertaining and live theatre. She actively supports the Fight Cancer Foundation, is a member of Women on Boards and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.