



Independent MBA Business School

Grade Review Committee (GRC) Membership

The current membership of the Grade Review Committee is 4 members (all internal) as at November 2024 –

Associate Professor Wayne Smithson	Deputy Chair-Program Director Undergraduate,
Wajeeha Butt	Secretary – Postgraduate Administration Coordinator
Associate Professor Richard Xi	Associate Program Director Postgraduate
Associate Professor Mordechai Katash	Associate Program Director Undergraduate

A profile on each member is provided -

Deputy 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



Wajeeha Waquar Butt - MBA, MBus (ERP)

Wajeeha completed a postgraduate degree - Master of Business Administration at UBSS in 2017. She was awarded the Gus Guthrie Award for the graduating class of 2018 – this is given to an outstanding candidate as acknowledgement of excellence. She went on and achieved a second PG award – a Master in Business and Enterprise Resource Planning - from Victoria University in 2019.

Wajeeha has had a long-term association with academia –She started as a primary level teacher and has worked for the University of Central Punjab as a Lecturer and Business Development Lead from 2020 to 2023. Her area of teaching was Business Strategy and Planning as well as Entrepreneurship.

She returns to UBSS in the capacity of as **Postgraduate Administration Coordinator**. Wajeeha is working with the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor and is contributing to supporting the growing Post Graduate program.



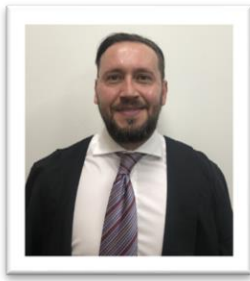
Associate Professor Richard Xi - *Cert Bus (UNSW), Cert Ec and Bus (Fudan), Dip Acc (SIT), Dip Interp (NSIT), B. Htl Mgt (SIT), Grad Cert Tourism Management (SIT), Grad Cert China Stud (USyd), Grad Cert Bus Admin (UBSS), MA Asian Studies (UNSW)*

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 SinoHolland 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).



Associate Professor Mordechai Katash- TAE40116 Certificate Level 4, Executive MBA (Massey University), BBA-Marketing (New England College)

Mordechai Katash is a dynamic and highly committed professional with 25 years of experience holding key leadership governance and executive positions in publicly listed companies, NFPs, private and start-ups.

Skilled and experienced in governance, leadership, business management, financial management, strategy and global markets, Mordechai has been the principal consultant of Mordechai Katash Strategic Consultants since 2013.

Before that, Mr Katash was the General Manager of Financial Services at Roy Morgan Research, where he provided thought leadership and strategic advice and implementation of key metrics in the Financial Services Industry, working closely with Australia's Big 10 Banks, Superannuation Funds, Insurance Companies, BNPL and Fintech companies.

Between 2014 and 2016, he was the Executive Officer at Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria. Membership-based teachers association (mainly focusing on STEAM-related topics) that provided substantial lobbying and advocacy throughout Victoria to several hundreds of schools, Universities and other education institutions Further, during that time, Mordechai also served as a member of the Steering Committee of a Victoria Government Department, advising the Minister of Small Business and Innovation on many topics and carrying out valuable government and industry-backed projects in our communities.

From 2007 to 2011 Mordechai was the Sales and Marketing Manager and Acting Country Director (New Zealand) of Raffles Education Corporation (SGX: NR7); and oversaw college general operations, governance, full P&L responsibility, development and implementation of full Integrated Marketing Communication, actionable segmentation, and sales strategies in Asia Pacific. Further, Mr Katash played a pivotal role in the development of sales offices with key international admission offices in Fiji, India, Singapore, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and China.

Mordechai is currently an Associate Program Director in undergraduate programs and teaching in the MBA Program.