



Independent MBA Business School

UBSS Threshold Standards Audit Committee (TSAC) Membership

The current membership of the Threshold Standards Audit Committee is 5 members (4 internal & 1 external) as at July 2024 –

Associate Professor Jotsana Roopram	Chair – Deputy Dean (Academic)
Assistant Professor Natasha Jacques	Secretary - Student and Academic Experience Coordinator
Dr. Ruth Ferraro	Interim President
Associate Professor Tom O'Connor	Acting Executive Dean
Professor Jim Mienczakowski	External

A profile on each member is provided -

CHAIR



Associate Professor Jotsana Roopram - *Dip(Hospitality), DipEd., GradCertBusAdmin., GradCertHEd., M.Ed.* Jotsana holds multiple qualifications including diplomas in Hospitality, Education, and Business Administration, a Master's in Education, and is currently a PhD candidate at Federation University. She has extensive experience lecturing in Hospitality Management in South Africa, collaborating with industry, and mentoring junior staff. She has also served in academic administration as Head of Department, managing a diverse faculty.

Before joining UBSS in 2016, Jotsana was the College Operations Manager at Navitas in Sydney. Her expertise spans academic systems development, policy implementation, online examination management, and campus operations.

She has also completed postgraduate qualifications in Higher Education Academic Practice and Business Administration. Her research focuses on online learning and its impact on international students, with published articles on related topics. 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).

SECRETARY

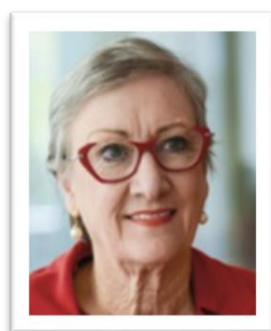


Assistant Professor Natasha Jacques

Natasha holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative English from India and has nine years of corporate experience at HSBC Bank India, where she worked as a Customer Service Representative, subject matter expert, and Supervisor. She later became a Training and Development Specialist, focusing on training needs analysis and delivering soft skills and leadership training.

After moving to Australia, Natasha enhanced her qualifications by completing an MBA in Accounting at UBSS in 2019. She has been actively involved at UBSS as a Student Volunteer, Student Assistant, Peer Assistant Student Support Representative (PASS), CPA Ambassador, and student representative on the Academic Senate and Academic Integrity committee. She also represented UBSS at the TEQSA conference in 2019.

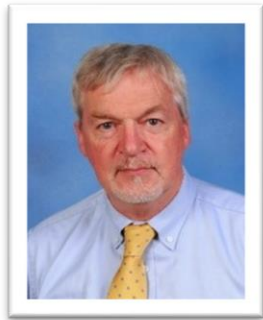
Currently, Natasha is employed as the **Student and Academic Experience Coordinator** in the Office of the Dean at UBSS and lectures in Undergraduate programs. She is a member of the International Managers and Leaders association (MIML) and the Australian Computer Society. Natasha also serves as Secretary of the Academic Senate, Academic Integrity, and Threshold Standards Audit committees.



Dr. Ruth Ferraro - PhD, GAICD, FGIA

Ruth Ferraro serves as the **Interim President** at Group Colleges Australia and the Interim Chair of the GCA Board of Directors. She is the Academic Lead for Strategy at the Governance Institute of Australia (GIA) and an Adjunct to GIA's Governance Academy.

Ruth earned her PhD from Middlesex University (UK) with research focusing on emerging professions. With over 25 years of executive experience in education, particularly within membership bodies for various professions, Ruth brings deep insight into the life-cycle and maturity of professions.



Associate Professor Tom O'Connor

Dr. Tom O'Connor has an extensive academic background, including a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education, multiple graduate diplomas, three master's degrees, and a Doctorate in Postmodern Theory. He began his career teaching English, Drama, and Media Studies in secondary schools across Australia, the UK, Ireland, and the US. In Australia, he served as English Coordinator at CRC St Albans and held leadership positions at CRC Sydenham and Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, where he played a key role in the school's amalgamation and development of the first VCE English curriculum.

Transitioning to higher education, Dr. O'Connor lectured at Griffith University and Central Queensland University, developed business curricula for the Saudi VET sector, and served as Head of Business at Ras Al Khaimah Women's College in the UAE. He also led the Victoria International School Sharjah project, bringing Australian pedagogy to the UAE.

Returning to Australia, he became Curriculum Director and Acting Principal at Thomas Carr College, initiating partnerships to deliver the VCE in China. At Firkbank Grammar School, he expanded offshore VCE programs to ten schools, making it the largest provider of VCE offshore.

Dr. O'Connor has a passion for musical theatre, writing and directing productions performed internationally, including in Melbourne, California, the Middle East, and Northern Ireland. He is currently a Fellow of the UBSS Centre for Scholarship and Research, a consulting Principal at Shanghai Normal University Tianhua High School, and holds roles as Associate Director of Postgraduate Studies and Director of Special Projects at UBSS Melbourne.



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.