ELECTION OF ONE ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBER TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, BUSINESS, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CANDIDATE PROFILES

May 2020

Candidate 1

Associate Professor Lubica Ucnik
Creative Media, Arts and Design

I had studied at Murdoch University, as an undergraduate and PhD student, then, taught in different sessional positions, and, in 2004, have become a lecturer in Philosophy, now in College of Arts, Business, Law & Social Sciences.

I share with many academics a serious concern about the loss of purpose at universities in general, and the marginalisation of academic voices in decision-making processes at Murdoch University in particular. The first step should be to question this form of managerialism to rethink the now disregarded role of academics in decision-making processes; and the voices of teachers and researchers, who are at the 'frontline' of teaching and research. It is imperative to reinstate in colleges a more direct line of communication between academics, elected representatives at College Board and Academic Council. We should aim to re-establish an open forum for all members of staff to rethink the lack of transparency in decision making, and, in particular, the lack of communication between academics and management in relation to pedagogical decisions that are 'executed' without consultation with relevant staff. Ultimately, restoring reciprocal processes, critical for academic integrity, will depend upon the active involvement of all staff. We need a space for the expression of views and priorities to reinstate the principles of the University as a research and teaching institution.

Candidate 2

Dr Simon Order
Academic Chair
Creative Media, Arts and Design

My interest in academic council is premised on bringing my diverse arts and communications background into a setting where I may contribute in a meaningful way towards governance. My research gives insight into community organisation governance, and this may be valuable to my colleagues and Murdoch University.

I moved from the University of West London to Perth in 2006, where I commenced my PhD at Murdoch. Previously, I was an advocate for the fledgling community radio sector in the United Kingdom prior to the legislation of the third radio sector in 2005. My passion for community radio, benefits to participants and the community were born during this time. This set the scene for my PhD on community radio in Western Australia and my research focus.

In 2008, I was appointed to the role of Academic Director for Media and Communications at the Murdoch Dubai campus. As the senior Murdoch Australia staff member, I helped set up the Murdoch Dubai campus from scratch, bringing Murdoch values and education to the UAE. I deputised as Dubai’s Pro-Vice Chancellor on many occasions. These leadership roles...
provided some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in my professional life. The Murdoch values of equality, diversity and social justice were my valuable companions. We set up the first media and communications school in the UAE with a western sensibility, bringing a new perspective to local education.

I returned to Murdoch Australia in 2010 and helped develop the Sound and Radio degree courses. In 2014 I became the Academic Chair for Sound and Radio and have remained in that role ever since. I have developed Murdoch University's community radio station as an operational and active voice within and external to the Murdoch community. I have forged strong collegial links with the radio, music and sound community in Australia for research and student development.

Other roles I have occupied include membership of various teaching and learning committees, a timetabling review committee and I am currently a general and academic misconduct investigator.

I am an active electronic music producer, regularly publishing and releasing music globally under the moniker, “Liminal Drifter”. As an individual I bridge the gap between the academic sound world and the industry of modern media production. I am uniquely positioned as an advocate for the arts as both a content production practitioner and a researcher.

Candidate 3

Associate Professor Khurshid Alam

Business

Associate Professor Khurshid Alam is currently serving at the Murdoch Business School and leading its research and teaching in health economics and financing. In academic background Associate Professor Alam did his PhD in Health Economics from Monash University in 2014. He also did his MPH (major in Health Economics) and MS in Demography from overseas. He received professional training in Advanced Methods for Cost-effectiveness Analysis (York Centre for Health Economics, UK) MEASURE/USAID Impact Evaluation Fellowship in health, nutrition and population program (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill & Public Health Foundation of India); and Gates Foundation M&E training in health program (Measurement, Learning & Evaluation Project for the Urban Reproductive Health Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya).

He has nearly two decades of intensive teaching, research and program management experience in health economics, health financing, health systems, health policy, universal health coverage and global health across African and Asia Pacific countries. He has 74 peer-reviewed publications in top international journals including the Lancet, Social Science & Medicine, Health Policy & Planning. His Google Scholar h-index is 38 and citations are 20213.

He is now Academic Editor in Health Economics for Plos One (Q1 Journal) and Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation (Q2 Biomed Central Journal). He has attracted national and international competitive research grants in health financing and health services research.
He is a trained research supervisor and currently supervising PhD and Master research projects as a Principal Advisor. His blended experience in applied research, teaching and program management helped him in evidence-informed decision making and strategic planning, leading teams and their capacity building in academia.

Given his very active and vibrant academic career he believes he is able to meaningfully contribute to the Academic Council of Murdoch University in academic policy-making, advising the Senate on budget process and academic staffing policy, ensuring consistency between the approved courses and policies and the overall strategic direction and capacity of the University.

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**Candidate 4**

**Dr Rahul Gairola**

**The Krishna Somers Lecturer in English and Postcolonial Literature**

**Creative Media, Arts and Design**

My name is Rahul Krishna Gairola, and I put my name forward as candidate for the incoming ABLSS Academic Staff member on the Academic Council. I do so in the interest of becoming actively involved in the future of our university, and my College, at the highest levels. My investments in academic policy and degree/diploma conferral stem from my commitment to equitable teaching and learning in diverse contexts. I currently serve both the ABLSS Learning and Teaching Committee and the university-wide Inclusive Curriculum Committee. I was also honoured to advise Student Guild leaders on matters of diversity and inclusion (as, for example, when I helped design and plan the Guild’s *Dussera* welcome event for Indian students at the Murdoch Tavern two years ago.

As such, I am committed to both international and domestic student scholarship, on the one hand, and student wellbeing, on the other. My main interest here, however, is where and how both intersect and facilitate each other. Another interest in serving the AC is also linked to digital pedagogy, a field in which I have been involved for many years. For example, I was in the first cohort of Teaching Assistants trained for Computer Integrated Classrooms (CICs) teaching at the University of Washington, Seattle, in 2002 sponsored by Microsoft. I believe that my experience in that cohort lends me a strategic, historical outlook that I can contribute to Murdoch University in these challenging times. I also aspire to contribute institutional knowledge from my former academic posts to inform, and perhaps shape, Murdoch policy on international recruitment strategies, effective online delivery of digital educational media, and innovative ways of together approaching learning in the 21st century.

Irespectfully seek your nomination because I am inspired by Murdoch’s vibrant commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (in the many ways in which we interpret and approach these concepts). These are vital values to promote as the University weathers these challenging times, and I am confident that our local, national, and global communities will support us if we remain committed to these values – values that return us to student wellbeing, online learning and safety, and academic policy and celebration. Finally,
addition to contributing to the Academic Council, I wish to absorb, learn, contemplate, and thus grow from the experience of this service to both my College and our University.

Candidate 5

Associate Professor Guy Hall
Academic Chair Criminology
Law and Criminology

I am an Associate Professor and Academic Chair of Criminology. I have been a member of academic staff at Murdoch since 1998. I came here to start up the Criminology program after having established the first such program in WA at Edith Cowan University. I have designed and taught many of the criminology units. I have been the Academic Chair or its equivalent for at least 15 years. In that time, I have seen criminology grow from a few units, to a major and now it is a degree in its own name. Criminology is now combined with Communication, Forensic Biology and Toxicology, Global Security, Psychology and Law. In addition, it has 4 majors. Criminology, in all its guises, is one of the most popular courses in the University. I believe this means I can bring to Academic Council a broad understanding of academic planning and policy, the principal role of Council. My twenty years of working at Murdoch means I can bring institutional knowledge to the Council, a critical factor in these times of dramatic organisational change.

Prior to Murdoch, I worked in Corrections as the Senior Clinical Psychologist and head of human resources. I believe that this has given me a good appreciation of budget process, staffing and strategic planning. While Council is primarily concerned with academic matters its members also need to have an understanding of budgets, staffing and strategic planning impact on this. I particularly appreciate the strategic importance of the staffing given we have five criminology academics resulting in the very careful planning of the use of our resources.

I have also been a Deputy Chair of the WA Prisoners Review Board and member of the Life and Indeterminate Board and Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board. This experience means I grasp the significance of good governance, correct process and transparency in decision making.
Candidate 6

Dr Rajat Ganguly
Senior Lecturer
Global Studies

I am running for a position on Academic Council from the College of Arts, Business, Law and Social Sciences. I am passionate about Murdoch University and what it offers to students, to the community of scholars and to the wider community. In the Academic Council, I will provide strong leadership and strategic thinking and my decisions will always be guided by what is good for the College and University. I believe that the core business of the College of ABLSS is undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. In the Academic Council I will work hard to ensure that our courses provide students with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills that will have value in the competitive and tough job market.

As your representative in the Academic Council, my aim will be to focus on student recruitment, enhancing students’ learning experience, and improving students’ job prospects upon graduation, which in turn would help the College to attract and retain a large volume of students. I have substantial global experience as an academic and administrator. I have worked in universities in the United States, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Australia. At Murdoch University, I have served as Academic Chair of the Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies program for a number of years with distinction.

In the former School of Humanities and Social Sciences, I served on School Board and School Executive Committee, and Chaired the School Disciplines and Research Committees. I am confident that if you give me the honour to represent you in the Academic Council, I will be able to represent the College of ABLSS successfully and make a strong contribution.