

*Resume: Randall Carolissen (PhD) – April 2026*

Prof. Randall Carolissen established himself as a fiscal authority, a thought leader in the higher education sector, commercial turnaround specialist and an internationally cited academic in a professional life spanning more than 4 decades. As a technical expert, he has represented South Africa at the BRICS, IMF, World Bank, OECD, and African Bank.

Completing a B.Sc. at UWC in 1981, Carolissen commenced his career as an industrial engineer at Firestone (SA). He returned to UWC in 1984 as a laboratory assistant, completing a BSc (Hons). In 1987, as a researcher at the CSIR he completed a MSc *cum laude*. He joined UWC as Senior Lecturer where he completed his PhD in Nanophysics in 1995. He was awarded a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania where he co-authored three widely cited publications on electrical interfaces of Schottky barriers. In 1997 he assumed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Ghent. In 2005 he completed an MBA (*cum laude*) at the University of Stellenbosch and was awarded the prestigious Old Mutual Gold medal. In 2009 he graduated with an M. Com in International Tax from the University of Northwest.

In 1999, he became Managing Director of the South African Bureau of Standards, mandated to corporatize commercial functions. The 2005 annual report of SABS shows a turnaround from a loss-making government agency to a financially sustainable and internationally competitive quality management company. In 2005, he assumed the position of COO of Damelin group of companies.

Carolissen joined SARS in 2007 as General Manager as part of the team responsible for operationalization of the SARS modernization program. In 2008 he was appointed SARS Group Executive research, modelling and forecasting. Statistical and analytics models developed by this division were cited by the IMF as amongst the best globally and were successfully deployed in revenue authorities on the African continent. The precision attained assisted in robust revenue mobilization during the 2008 global financial crisis. This provided SA government fiscal space for debt consolidation and economic recovery trajectories exceeding that of peer nations. With the World Bank, he initiated asymmetrical trade research to identify abuses of treaties and misdirection of settlements.

Keenly involved in social activism he assumed leadership positions advancing the cause of the poor and marginalized. As founding chairperson of Kuilsrivier Residents Association a formal settlement was founded for three hundred homeless families in Kalkfontein in the early 1990s. KRA also raised funds internationally for a childcare facility, which since 1992, provided preschool education and daycare for thousands of children.

In response to the collapse of governance that left hundreds of thousands of students destitute, Carolissen was requested to step in as Administrator of the National Student Fund Aid scheme in 2018. The successful turnaround in the administration and the improved delivery of its mandate drew widespread recognition and in 2021 NSFAS, for the first time ever, received an unqualified Auditor-General report. An independent cabinet review recognized this significant achievement and the attendant stabilization of the Higher Education ecosystem during his tenure.

From 1 March 2021 to 31 December 2024, he held the position of Dean of the Johannesburg Business School and repositioned it as a leading authority on digital leadership, increasing enrolment from about 250 to close to a thousand students, including 65 DPhil students and sixteen postdoctoral fellows. He advanced the Quantum leadership paradigm to improve leadership development in a technology driven new world order, characterized by complexity and uncertainty akin to chaotic and counterintuitive complex adaptive systems. He contributed towards the establishment of JBS as a leading research-intensive school in Africa, supervising two doctoral students to completion.

He joined his spouse Nadia in her consulting company focusing on Executive Coaching, Tax and Artificial Intelligence. As chairperson of the academic advisory council of Richfield College, he is guiding this private institution towards full university status. He served an unprecedented three terms as chairperson of the University of the Witwatersrand, providing stability and continuity in stewardship during the turbulent *#feesmustfall* campaign. He was recently appointed as a visiting professor at the UCT Graduate School of Business. In May 2025 he was elected Chairperson of the Council of the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley.