Rich Lyons began as Dean of UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business in 2008, having served as acting Dean in 2004-05. Prior to joining the Berkeley faculty in 1993, he was an Assistant Professor at Columbia Business School. He received his BS from Berkeley (finance) and PhD from MIT (economics).

Lyons' research and teaching are mostly in international finance, though his more recent work explores how business leadership drives innovation, an area of strategic importance to Berkeley-Haas. In 1998, Rich received Berkeley's highest teaching honor, and from 2006-08 he was on leave at Goldman Sachs as their Chief Learning Officer, focusing on leadership development for managing directors.

Changes at Berkeley-Haas under Dean Lyons include a focus on culture, a new building, and funding for other initiatives made possible by attracting eight of the school's ten largest gifts. On the culture front, Lyons drove the school's historic strengths more deeply into admissions and other critical processes with a set of four Defining Principles: Question the Status Quo, Confidence Without Attitude, Students Always, and Beyond Yourself.