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DOC 2020-08 Change of department name from Department of Management Information Systems, Operations Management, and Decision Sciences to Department of Management Information Systems, Operations/Supply Chain, and Business Analytics

University of Dayton. School of Business Administration. Department of MIS, Operations Management, and Decision Sciences

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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Change of department name from Department of Management Information Systems, Operations Management, and Decision Sciences to Department of Management Information Systems, Operations/Supply Chain, and Business Analytics

SUBMITTED BY: Department of MIS, Operations Management, and Decision Sciences,
School of Business Administration

DATE: May 11, 2020

ACTION: Legislative Authority

REFERENCE: DOC 2019-03 Actions Pertaining to Degree Programs and Academic Departments
(Revised)

Background:

The department began at the University in 1983 as the Decision Sciences Department, School of Business Administration. It split off from the then Management Department. The new department's courses were in business mathematics, business computing, business statistics, production management, management information systems (MIS), and management science – both undergraduate and graduate. The name Decision Sciences was an umbrella term – generally understood to encompass the department's academic areas.

A few years later, after the new MIS business major began in the department, the name was changed to Department of Management Information Systems and Decision Sciences to signal to students and others this academic program. Around 2000, the new Operations Management business major was approved and shortly thereafter the department's name was changed again to Department of Management Information Systems, Operations Management, and Decision Sciences. This name identified the two academic programs offered by the department and also the broader academic area in which courses are offered.

In 2018, the department faculty proposed and obtained approval for a new graduate program, Master of Business Analytics, which was launched in July 2019. This program was developed to address the increasing importance (perhaps necessity) for any organization to have expertise in data and analytics. This relatively new term 'Business Analytics' is more circumscribed than 'Decision Sciences.' The term implies applied statistics and quantitative analysis linked with highly capable information technology – all in support of processes and decisions throughout an organization.

In the Spring of 2019, the department faculty discussed possible revisions to department's name. After several iterations, the department faculty agreed to the proposed name: Management Information Systems, Operations/Supply Chain, and Business Analytics. Subsequently, Dean Mittelstaedt and Provost Benson were consulted on this proposal per university protocol.

Rationale:

This proposal involves two revisions to the department title.

(1) Replace 'Decision Sciences' with 'Business Analytics.'

We note that many of our current students may spend their years at our university pursuing a business degree without knowing (perhaps even hearing) about the term business analytics. Given the increasing importance of this area to any contemporary organization, this is not serving them well. For some years, the department offered an undergraduate minor in Decision Sciences – we retitled to Business Analytics in 2016. However, we continue to have some students asking about Business Analytics not realizing that this minor is available. With our newly approved graduate program in Business Analytics, we believe it is time to make the change in the department's name.

(2) Replace 'Operations Management' with 'Operations/Supply Chain.'

The academic discipline and the practice of operations management have evolved over the last 20 years to include issues that span beyond the boundaries of a firm. This expanded scope now includes both supply and distribution, referred to as supply chain management. Given the departmental emphasis on the broad issues of the extended enterprise and the traditional topics of the discipline, and that students search for supply chain programs in addition to operations management, it behooves us to reflect this development.

In light of the new program in, and the growing importance of, business analytics, and in light of the evolution of the area of operations to include supply chain, we propose the change of name. Such a name will identify the three distinct business areas in which the department provides programs and research. The name would be consistent with those at some other universities in the region – some examples are shown below.

Examples of Similar Academic Department Names at other Universities:

University of Cincinnati:	Operations, Business Analytics, and Information Systems
Ohio University:	Analytics and Information Systems
Miami University:	Information Systems and Analytics
Notre Dame University:	Information Technology, Analytics, and Operations
Wright State University:	Information Systems and Supply Chain Management
University of Kentucky:	Marketing and Supply Chain
Purdue University:	MIS / Supply Chain & Operations Management (within Management)

This proposed department name change should have no impact on other academic departments or academic units. We have, however, requested consultations as seen in the last section of this proposal.

APPROVALS:

Department Faculty – January 17, 2020

School of Business Administration Leadership Committee – April 30, 2020

School of Business Administration Faculty – May 6, 2020

Dean, School of Business Administration – May 6, 2020

CONSULTATION:

College of Arts and Sciences

School of Engineering