

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

#### Department of Management Science Name Change to Department of Information Systems and Operations Management

##### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the name of the Department of Management Science be changed to the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, effective September 1, 2006.

##### BACKGROUND

The Management Science Department was originally formed in July of 1985, by drawing two areas of expertise from existing departments: (i) Quantitative Methods from (then) Finance, Business Economics and Quantitative Methods and (ii) Operations Management from Management & Organization. These areas were considered to have a similar focus and joining them in one department combined two existing disciplines which had quantitative analysis as an integral part of their curriculum and research. The name Management Science served the Department well at that time, but is no longer descriptively accurate.

First, Information Systems (IS) has become a very important part of the department. At the time of forming the department, IS was only an emerging area. Two faculty members (one from Accounting and the other from Finance) with interest in IS joined the department. Over the years, the IS group has become a significant part; currently it is the largest group in the department with seven tenured or tenure-track faculty members. The existing name does not capture this important expertise of the department in any way.

Second, the name, Management Science, suggests that the focus of research and teaching is on the analytical tools and techniques in management science (including decision theory, operations research, and statistics), not real-world problems in information systems and operations management. As an important part of the Business School, however, the current focus of the Department is primarily on business problems related to information systems and operations management. Management science simply provides the research tools and techniques for understanding, analyzing, and solving these real-world business problems, but is not really the primary focus. The simplest way to communicate this broader mission is to use the name of the application areas, and not that of the basic tools.

Almost all top business schools in the United States have already changed the names of departments with similar mission, faculty composition, curriculum, and research. Typical names that have been used are: Operations and Information

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Management, Information Systems and Operations Management, Information Technology and Operations Management, Information and Operations. These names all point towards emphasizing the business functions and the application areas.

The business world expects the Department to prepare future business leaders so that they learn to effectively use and manage information systems, supply chain, and service and logistics. The current name is confusing to the business community. The proposed name would better convey the mission of the Department to this community.

The suggested name change to the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management has the broad support of the departmental faculty, the Business School Faculty Council and Advisory Committee, the Dean, the Provost, and the President.