



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Graduate Programs in Business
Warrington College of Business Administration
Department of Decision and Information Sciences

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August 28, 2006

To: John Kraft, Dean
Warrington College of Business Administration

From: Asoo J. Vakharia, Chair
Department of Decision & Information Sciences

Re: Department Name Change

The faculty in the Department of Decision and Information Sciences would like to request that the following change be made in terms of the Department name:

Old: Department of Decision and Information Sciences (DIS)

New: Department of Information Systems and Operations Management (ISOM).

The rationale behind this change in name for the department is as follows:

- It more accurately reflects the research emphasis of the faculty. Currently, all the research active faculty in the department address contemporary issues in managing Information Systems/Information Technology and/or Operations/Supply Chains.
- It more accurately reflects the focus of our successful Master of Science Program since all students in this program focus on one of two tracks: Information Technology or Supply Chain Management.
- It is more representative of department names which have been adopted by several peer universities. For example, similar departments names at some of these schools are Operations and Information Technology (University of California-Berkeley); Decision, Operations, and Technology Management (University of California – Los Angeles); Information Systems AND Operations Management (separate departments at University of Minnesota); Operations (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill); Management Information Systems AND Operations Management (separate focus areas at Purdue University); Information, Risk, and Operations Management (University of Texas-Austin); and Operations and Information Management (University of Wisconsin-Madison).
- From a recruiter perspective, this issue has been discussed individually with several board members of the DIS Forum (IAB). None of the board members felt this would hamper the placement potential of our students – if fact, several mentioned that such a change would be beneficial since it would clearly identify student expertise.

Given that from all dimensions this name change would be more representative of our department, I would like to request approval of this request. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

c.c. W. Andrew McCollough, Senior Associate Dean