

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Reed, Katie](#)
Subject: FW: Name Change of Department: From Management Sciences to Operations and Business Analytics
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:10:37 AM
Attachments: [Dept Name Change - Mgmt Sc to Ops and Bus Analytics.pdf](#)
[Department Chair Letter Supporting Name Change.docx](#)
[Dept Name Change - Letter from Senior Assoc Dean.pdf](#)

From: Makhija, Anil <makhija.1@osu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Smith, Randy <smith.70@osu.edu>
Cc: Hill, James <hill.249@osu.edu>; Arya, Anil <arya.4@osu.edu>
Subject: Name Change of Department: From Management Sciences to Operations and Business Analytics

Dear Randy,

This is a request for permission to change the name of Fisher's Department of *Management Sciences* to *Operations and Business Analytics*. For this purpose, please see the three attached letters from Prof. James Hill as Chair of the Department of *Management Sciences*, Prof. Anil Arya as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, and me as dean of the College. The *Management Sciences* faculty voted unanimously for the name change and overwhelmingly for the new name, a recommendation supported by the Department Chair, Senior Associate Dean, and me.

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information.

Thanks.

Anil K. Makhija
Dean, Fisher College of Business



March 4, 2021

Dear Dean Makhija:

I was copied on the letter for a department name change by Professor James Hill, the chair of the Management Sciences department. The chair, and the department faculty, have voted in support of the name change from *Management Sciences* to *Operations and Business Analytics*. In my role as associate dean for faculty and research, I support the name change and will take this opportunity to simply reiterate a couple of related issues, some also noted by the chair and you previously.

First, as James rightly notes, the name change reflects both research and teaching interests and needs in the department (and the college). I agree. It will, hence, be vital for the college to provide adequate and continuing support to ensure that both the research and teaching missions are ably delivered. This will require hiring both tenure-track and non tenure-track faculty in analytics and operations.

Second, and in line with sentiments expressed by many at various times, the name change is intended to provide synergetic and positive repercussions throughout the college. In the current business environment, one is hard-pressed to think of a department in Fisher which is not impacted by “big data.” Consequently, departments often rely on creative quantitative approaches to make meaning from what would otherwise just be a “data dump.” I expect, and am confident, that a corollary to the name change is that it will nurture relationships across departments that will further Fisher’s academic mission for the long term. The success of such efforts is, of course, contingent on engaged faculty, and it is precisely that which makes me confident that the endeavor will succeed in breaking down silos and fostering cross-disciplinary research.

In conclusion, my support of the name change proposal is wholehearted and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anil Arya'.

Anil Arya, John J. Gerlach Chair in Accounting
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arya_4@fisher.osu.edu



The Management Sciences Department at the Fisher College of Business requests to change the department name to the “Operations and Business Analytics Department”. Over the past forty years the Management Sciences Department had two faculty groups, decision sciences and operations management. Because of market trends and growth in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, the department now finds itself with a faculty made up of one hundred percent operations management tenured track faculty. The department offers degree programs in operations management and purchasing at the undergraduate level and operations management at the graduate, PhD, and executive education levels.

The department has a strong commitment to operations management research (UT Dallas top 10-research faculty in three leading journals the past 5 years). The U.S News 2021 best business school rankings place the operations management major as the 5th best undergraduate and the 9th best MBA specialization. The name change will improve the PhD students’ positioning in the job market for assistant professorship roles as well as help recruit prospective students into our program. It will also ensure our undergraduate and MBA students are properly identified by the corporate community. The department is home to the Center for Operational Excellence (COE). **COE is a business consortium founded more than 25 years ago that connects over 30 member organizations to research in operations management along with various other activities. With all of this,** it has become increasingly obvious to the operations faculty that the existing department name is not representative of the work of the department.

The department, which manages the college wide specialized master’s in business analytics and the undergraduate minor in business analytics, has a significant curriculum stake in business analytics. The business analytics minor is the fastest growing minor in the undergraduate program at Fisher. Many tenure track faculty in the department have significant training in analytics, and the department has clinical faculty and senior lecturers with doctorate degrees in statistics and business analytics. With the growth in business analytics, the need for a change to “operations and business analytics” reflects a strategic shift in the department, and adding the name ‘business analytics’ allows all faculty to continue to be connected to



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the department.

In spring 2021, department members first voted 16 – 0 to change the name from Management Sciences and voted 14 – 2 to change the name from Management Sciences to Operations and Business Analytics. There will be no change to the undergraduate major name nor the MBA specialization. The executive master’s program will remain “Masters in Business Operational Excellence”. We request the course-offering bulletin change from BUSMGT to BUSOBA.

Sincerely,



To: Provost Bruce McPheron

Cc: Vice Provost – Academic Programs, Prof. Randy Smith, Chair of *Management Sciences*, Prof. James Hill, and Senior Associate Dean, Prof. Anil Arya

From: Anil K. Makhija, Dean *Anil K Makhija*

Date: March 8, 2021

Subject: Change of Name of Department – From *Management Sciences* to *Operations and Business Analytics*

The Chair of the *Management Sciences* Department, Prof. James Hill, has recommended that the department's name be changed to *Operations and Business Analytics*. This follows the same recommendation made by the *Management Sciences*' eligible faculty (TIU faculty), which voted unanimously 16-0 in favor of changing the department name and 14-2 to adopt the new name, *Operations and Business Analytics*. Furthermore, Fisher's Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, Prof. Anil Arya, has also supported such a name change, highlighting the concomitant teaching and research missions of the department in operations and in business analytics. He also notes the college-wide collaborative opportunities it brings. Recommendation letters from the Department Chair and the Senior Associate Dean are attached. The subject was discussed at the college Executive Committee too. No name changes are required for the programs, degrees or courses offerings of the department, except for the minimal adjustment of going to BUSOBA instead of the current BUSMGT acronyms in course listings. Along with my own assessment, I am happy to recommend the name change.

Over the forty years since the department was named *Management Sciences*, it has evolved in ways such that its interests and capabilities, as well as its aspirations, are better aligned with the proposed new name, *Operations and Business Analytics*. On the Operations side, the department does both empirical and theoretical work. It holds a top-10 ranking for top-tier research in Operations Management, according to UT-Dallas rankings. Its Operations major is ranked 5th best among undergraduate programs, while the specialization is ranked at 9th best among MBA programs, according to 2021 *U.S. News & World Report*. The department is also associated with the 25-year old *Center for Operational Excellence*. On the Business Analytics side, the department faculty manage our recently launched graduate program, Specialized Master of Business – Analytics. The business analytics minor, which is the fastest growing undergraduate minor at Fisher, is also managed by this department. Many of the existing faculty in the department have significant training in analytics (including doctorates in statistics and business analytics). With the continuing growth of business analytics, the college will invest in more faculty to grow its teaching and research activities in the area.

From the college perspective, this explicitly recognizes the competitive strengths we have developed in Operations and in Business Analytics. It also provides better management within the college of both teaching and research in operations and in business analytics. Quantitative analysis of big data is already

successfully pursued in the context of other business disciplines in Fisher, which will continue. The added advantage now will be to create ownership and more attention to business analytics as a discipline on its own, even as we take advantage of the benefits of collaborations across the college.