

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Business

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Interoffice Communication

Date: September 14, 2009

To: Dr. Labh Hira, Dean of College of Business

From: Dr. Qing Hu, Chair of Department of Logistics, Operations, and MIS

Cc: College of Business Dean's Cabinet

Re: Proposed Department Name Change for LOMIS

The faculty of the Department of Logistics, Operations, and Management Information Systems (LOMIS) requests that the College of Business consider and support a name change of the department to Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems.

Rationale:

The name of a department projects an image and conveys a message: who we are and what we do. The name is also a brand which takes years to establish and should not be changed often and without compelling reasons. The name of our department - Logistics, Operations, and Management Information Systems (LOMIS) - reflects its proud history as well as the undergraduate and graduate programs it offers. However, with the proposed changes to our undergraduate programs, i.e., the integration of the two supply chain majors (logistic and operations) into one supply chain management major, the newly created Supply Chain Management track in the Business and Technology Management doctoral program, as well as the existing MS in Information Systems program, the current name of the department is no longer able to convey who we are and what we do. The programs implied by our current name are also out of sync with the real world business practices. Logistics and operations are converging into integrated supply chain management in global and national companies. Businesses recruit supply chain management graduates and university programs in logistics and operations are often categorized and ranked under supply chain management by trade publications. The functions and practices of management information systems have far exceed the domain of "management" and

permeated into every aspect of business processes and operations in corporations and organizations.

For these reasons, the faculty believes that the current name of the department is no longer adequate and could even hinder the department's strategic positioning in academia and industry in the future. The faculty of the department has developed a vision of becoming one of the top ranked academic programs in both supply chain and information systems in the next five years. The proposed new name - Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems - is not only consistent with that vision, but also beneficial to both students and employers with its concise and easy to understand meaning.

Process:

The idea of department name change came up as a result of discussions with faculty and the Dean Hira about the supply chain program integration in July 2009. A name change proposal was subsequently written by the department chair and distributed to the faculty of the LOMIS department for comments. On August 17, 2009, the faculty voted to approve the proposal and recommended that the department chair move forward with the proposal to the college and consult with the major donors of the department.