

31st & Pearl

Victoria Recon

Given the close relationship between University of Houston at Victoria president Tim Hudson and incoming UH at Victoria business school dean Farhang Niroomand during their many years together at USM, there's little doubt that the recent hiring of Niroomand at UH at Victoria was anything *but* clean. Hudson is no stranger to running "polluted" searches. According to sources, the 2003 search for a new College of Business & Economic Development dean was muddied up real good by Hudson, then provost at USM. And, Niroomand has had his administrative hand in one bad search or another during his days as an associate dean in business at USM and those that came later.

While many, and probably most, rank-and-file business school faculty are likely upset about the hiring of Niroomand and the way their search was handled by Hudson and those around Hudson, there are surely some UH at Victoria business faculty who are perfectly satisfied with the choice of Niroomand. These are likely to be "the usual suspects" when it comes to intra-business school politics at UH at Victoria, thus heightening any pre-existing political tensions in the b-school there. Sources at USMNEWS.net also point out that, during his on-campus visit, Niroomand probably forged some political bonds that he will build upon and use during his early weeks and months on the UH-V campus.

Again, some of these political bonds are predictable via "the usual suspects" route. Some, however, might not be. USMNEWS.net sources have an answer for this potential situation as well. Those UH at Victoria b-school faculty who are interested in having a sincere, high-quality business school should consider learning who visits Niroomand bright and early in the morning on his first day there as dean. "The 'Hang,'" as Niroomand is "affectionately" known to some, will likely have 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., etc. visitors on his first day as dean. Those who are not in "the usual suspects" category will come out of hiding on that day. Knowing who these people are, and solidifying their priors on the others who visit Niroomand that a.m., will go a long way towards mitigating at least some of the potential problems of life under "the 'Hang.'"

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.