

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## *Caveat Emptor to the ODE Folks*

We just heard the news that the Gunthers handed over the keys to the ODE to former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. Former Dean William Gunther must really have an axe to grind when it comes to the ODE. Why else would he turn it over to Niroomand? But, this is not about another thing Gunther has messed up. Nope, this one's for the folks at ODE. Two things to watch out for from Niroomand over the next few years of his service to you as your Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

First, keep your eyes on your (his) travel budgets. If you are used to informal reporting systems, change that . . . stat! You will need to be using highly detailed travel request forms that require multiple lines of explanations/descriptions and as many signatures of approval that you can fit on the bottom of the form. Otherwise you find yourself reading about Niroomand's "ODE visit" to Atlanta, where he "stayed with friends and family," yet still managed to spend \$528.39 on food and mileage. Oh, and don't rely too heavily on him. He keeps a stack of papers handy – just in case he needs to waive them in someone's face – that he claims legitimizes every dollar of the \$75,000 in travel he is capable of mounting up over 60 months or so.

Next, if your organization is accredited in any way, don't put Niroomand in charge of it. He had *10 years* as the USM College of Business' Associate Dean to see to it that the organization could cleanly meet a *5-year accreditation cycle* and he *failed miserably*. He spent most of that time moving his salary northward by about \$60,000. If you're accredited now and you put Niroomand in charge of its maintenance, be prepared to face the music. Oh, and just one more thing. Sources tell us that his new ODE Administrative Assistant, Phyllis Pittman Carter, is the same individual who has been typing and editing research papers for him and Edward Nissan. Don't let him co-mingle her typing and editing responsibilities for himself and Nissan with her duties for the ODE. That could also be a problem if you're not careful.