

31st & Pearl

Victoria's Secret No More

The [recent posting](#) here at USMNEWS.net of a document that was sent in by business school faculty at the University of Houston-Victoria who are suffering under the boot of their dean, Farhang Niroomand, widened many eyes. Of course, CoB (and other USM) faculty are well aware of the iron fist with which Niroomand rules, as he held the CoB's associate dean position from 1998 to 2007. Looking at the line items in the aforementioned document, it seems that "the 'Hang" has changed very little, if at all, since leaving USM in 2009.

Going through the items reveals a lot. Niroomand, it seems, had to hold a two hour meeting to calm the masses, his people. Even after using up 120 minutes of everyone's time, he still didn't fully explain his travel habits, which are *bad* by almost any measure. Now, more than 30 UH-Victoria business faculty no longer support him. That is over half of the number of faculty in the USM b-school. It has to be the vast majority of the faculty in the UH-V version. With that result, it's understandable that Niroomand fears that a "no confidence" vote is looming.

Finally, it seems that Niroomand bragged to UH-Victoria b-schoolers that he could get a dean's job just about anywhere he wants. To hear him tell it, he *chose* UH-Victoria, and having his old friend Tim Hudson already there as president had *nothing* to do with him winning the job. That's funny. Of all the universities around, why UH-Victoria? If he didn't need Hudson, why did he find him? If forced to prove his point, it is likely that Niroomand would end up at either the University of Texas-Tyler or Lamar University. Of course, that would all be done on his own, with help from no one (named Peter Fos, Harold Doty or Gregg Lassen).

One thing about the document is clear – the UH-Victoria business faculty are working hard to fix their dismal situation. It is way past time that their leader, UH System chancellor and president, Renu Khator, assist them in their struggle.

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