

# “Dean Niroomand” . . .

## *Who Can Afford That?*

The exploits of former CoB Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand, are so notorious that he has his [own page](#) in the Archives at USMNEWS.NET. Most of those reports contained there detail the frivolous use of resources that characterized much of Niroomand’s tenure as an administrator in the business school at USM. One of those reports, entitled ["Niroomand on the Move,"](#) indicates that Niroomand exhausted **\$75,189.38** in travel budgets over the 59 months spanning from August 2001 through June of 2006 – a period overlapping much of Niroomand’s 10-year stint as AD in the college. That comes to **\$1,274.40 per month**, or **\$15,292.76 per year**, in case you are interested in keeping a tab of that sort of thing. Other reports focus on the specifics of Niroomand’s traveling escapades, such as his mysterious spring semester 2003 “academic visits” to Atlanta, Georgia. As ["5 Year Anniversary"](#) showed, each of these trips totaled **more than \$700**, and they combined to total **\$2,426.78**, or roughly the annual travel budgets of **more than 4 CoB faculty** at that time.

Niroomand’s mysterious “Academic Visits” (as AD) haven’t been restricted to Atlanta. They have also included visits to [Purdue University and LSU](#), as well as to [Irvine, CA](#), and [Seattle and Vancouver](#). These few trips exhausted **about \$3,800** in travel allotments, *and* they entailed cryptic travel voucher entries for “business dinners,” bar tabs, car rentals and phone charges. Such academic visits have never been explained by Niroomand, and the \$75,189.38 in travel expenditures have never been subjected to any kind of audit. With Niroomand, these are just the “costs of doing business.”

With “Dean Niroomand” you also have to handle the burden of Niroomand’s “academic” journal – the *Journal of Current Research in Global Business*, a periodical referred to by some as schlock. Niroomand’s JCRGB shows [budget lines](#) exceeding **\$3,000**, yet journal records offer evidence of only a few submissions and that it prints only 100 copies of each issue (the report [at left] on Niroomand’s JCRGB answered the question that a [prior report](#) posed). This publication’s budget would likely represent a noose around the neck of the type of smallish institution that would be interested in Niroomand as Dean, and the way that Niroomand would likely use the journal – as an in-house favor incubator – would only serve to divide the smallish organization more than it likely already is divided.

Niroomand’s involvement with the JCRGB is an outgrowth of his affiliation with the now *infamous* **Association for Global Business**, a so-called academic

organization. Reports available here at USMNEWS.NET show that the AGB is an organization of [dubious quality](#). It is through USMNEWS.NET's reporting that we learned that officers of the AGB are known as "AGB Amigos," and that Niroomand is among them (see below - Niroomand at far left).



As an "AGB Amigo," Niroomand's [AGB-related travel](#) spending is enough to place a [financial hardship](#) on many business schools.

Perhaps the most egregious of Niroomand's travel habits is his annual trek to his motherland - Iran. Niroomand's [2002 trip home to Iran](#) cost USM \$3,200. Niroomand's 2005 [return to Iran](#) resulted in a tab of \$2,300 for USM *as well as* him being away from his administrative duties in the CoB for **17 consecutive days** in May (of 2005). A look back today (March of 2008) at his [2002 trip home to Iran](#) reveals that Niroomand was away from his administrative duties in the CoB for **19 consecutive days** in July (of 2002). One could say that being at work isn't Niroomand's forte.

Niroomand isn't averse to using travel to support his lifestyle of largesse, even if it means fudging things on a voucher or two. On an AGB trip to Miami in 2005, Niroomand had [dinner with a colleague](#). On other trips around Mississippi, Niroomand has had numerous [meals](#) with associates. On one trip to Philadelphia in 2005, Niroomand appears to have even used USM travel monies to have a fancy meal with [two Iranian friends](#) (who are brothers) from separate universities. That (meal) ran the CoB more than \$163 in a single sitting.

Yes, Niroomand is accustomed to the high life. That means [expensive homes](#) and fancy cars (BMW's and Acuras). Living the high life is costly, so Niroomand requires the CoB's raise money be parceled out amongst faculty *only after* he gets, for himself, the [biggest chunk](#) off of the top. In 2006, that meant getting a "merit" raise of **\$9,282**. (When it comes to Niroomand's raise, no one else's [compares](#) favorably.) The merit raise process of [2004](#) was also a good one for Niroomand - he bagged **almost \$23,000** in "merit" raise monies. However, in [1999](#) Niroomand finished a disappointing second in the overall merit raise race, bringing home **\$9,006**. That followed a top spot in [1998](#) at **\$8,415**. Finally, even when Niroomand resigns, mysteriously one might add, it [costs the organization](#) dearly.

CoB administrators love to have their spouses on the public payroll. Niroomand is no different. As a result, hiring Niroomand also likely means [employing his wife](#), Dr. Farnaz Zand. Zand is a USM-trained instructor of computer science, who will likely command, wherever Niroomand lands, a starting salary exceeding **\$75,000** (9-months). This type of extravagance means that the team of Niroomand-Zand, productive or *unproductive* as it may be, will not only disrupt things in two separate colleges, it will also put the hiring institution on the hook for more than **\$200,000 per year** in salary and fringe benefits.

Listing the ways hiring Niroomand can be expensive to the employer is a process that knows no boundaries. One must simply list a few, as done here, and conclude the exercise. For more, feel free to search the pages at [USMNEWS.NET](#).