It's Good to See You Again, Old Friend

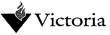
How Niroomand's Travels Often Simply Involve Seeing Former Colleagues

The new series on Farhang Niroomand's travels as b-school dean at the University of Houston – Victoria is drawing a lot of interest from USMNEWS.net readers. Among the most popular installments in the series has been Same Ol" Niroomand?, the series' inaugural report. That report told the story of Niroomand's summer-2010 visit to Hattiesburg, MS, in order to attend/participate in an unspecified "ODE event." As long-time USMNEWS.net readers are aware, Hattiesburg is home to the University of Southern Mississippi, Niroomand's professional home for 25 years. From 1998-2007, Niroomand served as associate dean of USM's business college. That report provided information suggesting that Niroomand used a significant sum of UH-V funds to get back to his old stomping grounds in order to reunite, if only for a few days, with some of his former economics colleagues, who had themselves been forced into retirement to deal with USM's FY2011 budget cut of \$10 million.

This report examines some of the specifics of Niroomand's March-2010 trip to Dallas in order to attend the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute's annual meeting. Niroomand departed Victoria on 2-March-2010, and returned to Victoria on 6-March-2010. According to the UH-V travel voucher (inserted below), Niroomand attended the meeting to keep himself "current in his research for the School of Business Admininstration" at UH-V. This effort to remain "current" cost UH-V a whopping \$1,105. Though these details are disturbing on their own, sources tell USMNEWS.net that the possibility that Niroomand arranged yet another trip that involved visiting old USM colleagues makes this particular story even more troubling. According to the SWDSI website, CoB MIS professor Chang-Tseh Hsieh holds a high-ranking position within the organization, as does CoB accountant Roderick Posey. Posey served as director of the CoB's accounting school during part of Niroomand's reign as CoB AD, and Hsieh is, according to reports, a long-time CoB political ally of Niroomand. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that while associate dean Niroomand supported and promoted Hsieh's activities, often arguing that Hsieh and some of his MIS cohorts (e.g., Kuo Lane Chen) were indispensible to the CoB, at least on the academic research front.

Is it possible that Niroomand made this trip to Dallas to visit old CoB friends? Though that is for individual readers to decide, sources tell USMNEWS.net that it is likely that Hsieh arranged for Niroomand's participation in SWDSI activities, such as this 2010 trip to Dallas. Maintaining that political tie is, according to sources, important to Hsieh, who will likely be departing the CoB in the near future. And, as sources put it, maintaining such political ties is *always* important to Niroomand.

University of Houston Victoria



TSBUMPO 83061

Travel Request								
Business Unit: 00765							Date MM/DD/YY:	02/17/10
Name of Traveler		Farhang Niroomand		·	Title: Dean, So		chool of Business Administration	
Department:		School of Business Administration				Traveler's Phone#	361-	570-4248
Department Contac		Mary Field		Dept Contact Phone #		361-570-4248		
Classification of Tra	aveler (check one)							
☐ Faculty		v	Staff		Prospective Emplo	oyee	Student _	
Other				Passeng	gers (list name(s))			
Designated Headqu	arters			UH	IV 3007 N. Ben Wi	lson Victoria, TX		
Departure City/State/Country		Victoria, TX USA			Destination City/State/Country		y Boston, MA	
Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 03		3/02/10		Return Date MM/DD/YY:		03/06/10		
	Purpose							
	Turpose							
	To present at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute being held at the Sheraton Ho							the Sheraton Hotel in
Purpose/Benefit of Travel	To Attend:	Dallas, TX						
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	(Location)	City:		Dallas		State/Country:	. 7	exas
		т						
	Benefit to	1						
	University							
			To keep Dr.	Niroomand	current in his rese	arch for the School	of Business Administ	ration
Estimated Travel Expenditures				-	Local Funds		State Funds	Total Funds = 0.00
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV				-		+		= 0.00
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV				-	1,105.00	+		= 1,105.00
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV				-	\$1,105.00	+	\$0.00	= \$1,105.00
				=				
Abrahaman.							ed cost of travel below:	
Fund 2064 DeptID V00				-	NA NA	Speed Type	11643	Amount \$1,105.00
Fund DeptID Prog						Speed Type		Amount
Fund Prog			Prog			Speed Type		Amount
Fund DeptID Prog			Prog	_ Proj _		Speed Type		Amount
Fund DeptID Prog			- Proj -		Speed Type		Amount	
Fund	DeptID		Prog	Proj -		Speed Type		Amount
Signatures							Date I	MM/DD/YY
MIN all 16					Ea II		21,	110
Supervisor (Required) = SVO			0		3///10			
(Required) =			_XVX	morecque				
Contract/Grant Appro			<i>U</i>					
President, Provost, or								
VP For Admin & Finance (if required) =								
Chancellor or designee (If required) =								
Finance Travel Analy	st (If Applicable)	=						