

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 Administration" 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 indispensable 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

T.SBUA1R0030610

Travel Request

Business Unit: 00765 Date MM/DD/YY: 02/17/10

Name of Traveler Farhang Niroomand Title: Dean, School of Business Administration

Department: School of Business Administration Traveler's Phone# 361-570-4248

Department Contact: Mary Field Dept Contact Phone # 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)

Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student

Other _____ Passengers (list name(s)) _____

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX

Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX USA Destination City/State/Country Boston, MA

Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 03/02/10 Return Date MM/DD/YY: 03/06/10

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Purpose/Benefit of Travel | <u>Purpose</u> |
| | To Attend: <u>To present at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute being held at the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, TX</u> |
| | (Location) City: <u>Dallas</u> State/Country: <u>Texas</u> |
| | <u>Benefit to University</u> |
| | <u>To keep Dr. Niroomand current in his research for the School of Business Administration</u> |

| Estimated Travel Expenditures | Local Funds | State Funds | Total Funds |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV | _____ | + | = <u>0.00</u> |
| Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV | _____ | + | = <u>0.00</u> |
| Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV | <u>1,105.00</u> | + | = <u>1,105.00</u> |
| Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV | <u>\$1,105.00</u> | + | = <u>\$1,105.00</u> |

| Type of Expenses: | Estimated cost of travel below: | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Fund <u>2064</u> DeptID <u>V0005</u> Prog <u>D0308</u> Proj <u>NA</u> | Speed Type <u>11643</u> | Amount | <u>\$1,105.00</u> |
| Fund _____ DeptID _____ Prog _____ Proj _____ | Speed Type _____ | Amount | _____ |
| Fund _____ DeptID _____ Prog _____ Proj _____ | Speed Type _____ | Amount | _____ |
| Fund _____ DeptID _____ Prog _____ Proj _____ | Speed Type _____ | Amount | _____ |
| Fund _____ DeptID _____ Prog _____ Proj _____ | Speed Type _____ | Amount | _____ |
| Fund _____ DeptID _____ Prog _____ Proj _____ | Speed Type _____ | Amount | _____ |

| Signatures | Date MM/DD/YY |
|--|---------------|
| Supervisor (Required) = <u><i>Shahabreza</i></u> | <u>3/1/10</u> |
| Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = <u><i>Shahabreza</i></u> | <u>3/1/10</u> |
| Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = _____ | _____ |
| President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (if required) = _____ | _____ |
| Chancellor or designee (if required) = _____ | _____ |
| Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = _____ | _____ |