

June Travel Bug

A Closer Look at Niroomand's June-2010 Travel Expenses at UH-V

Farhang Niroomand, business school dean at the University of Houston – Victoria, had an eventful June-2010, at least when it comes to university travel. The former USM associate dean of business (1998-2007) made a few trips in June-2010, spending a relatively large amount of money in the process. Table 1 below summarizes [what we know](#) so far, through a series of USMNEWS.net [reports](#), about Niroomand's June-2010 [travel history](#).

TABLE 1
Niroomand's June-2010 University Travel

| <u>Trip</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Left</u> | <u>Returned</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Southwestern Bus Deans Assoc | Santa Fe, NM | 5 th | 9 th | \$1,500 |
| ODE Event | Hattiesburg, MS | 17 th | 21 st | \$1,400 |
| Academy of International Bus | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 23 rd | 30 th | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL | | | | \$5,900 |

As Table 1 above points out, Niroomand spent a whopping **\$5,900** in university travel during June-2010 alone. Interestingly, an [older report here](#) at USMNEWS.net indicates that Niroomand spent more than \$75,000 in university funds, over the 59 months from Aug-2001 through June-2006, on the road/in the air as the USM CoB associate dean. That run comes to \$1,274 per month, an astronomical amount by mainstream standards. Note that Niroomand's June-2010 UH-V travel of \$5,900 is **more than 4.5 times** that monthly rate from his days at USM. The most recent June in that older report – June-2006 – shows that Niroomand spent (at least) \$1,716 in travel for the month, a figure that is still dwarfed by (only 29% of) the June-2010 sum.

Another aspect of Niroomand's June-2010 is in “days away from Victoria.” Counting weekends, of the 30 days in June-2010, Niroomand was on the road or away from Victoria on 18 of these. That breaks down to a “60% away/40% at home” division. In terms of work missed, of the 22 weekdays during June-2010, Niroomand was away from the office/traveling on 12. That breaks down to a “55% not in office/45% in office” split. According to sources, neither of these is commendable, particularly given how the \$5,900 and 12 work days were spent. As Table 1 points out, Niroomand made a dubious trip back to Hattiesburg, MS, on 17-June through 21-June, resulting in \$1,400 spent and 3 (of 22 possible) work days missed. Thus, Niroomand appears to have spent about 14% of the work-day portion of the month of June-2010 away from work, hanging out, at least according to sources' speculation, with old friends in Mississippi.