

“Table for 14, please . . .”

THE 2004 TRIP TO THE MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

On May 25, 2004, CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand wrote the following letter to Mr. Joe Morgan, requesting assistance in the funding for a visit to Jackson made by Niroomand and Dean Harold Doty to attend the Laureate Induction Banquet at the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame. That event occurred on May 10, 2004.

Joe
Dear Mr. ~~Morgan~~

5/25/04

Following our telephone conversation, I am forwarding the attached memo regarding requisition # 4712 for your approval. This was for buying two Tables at the Mississippi Hall of Fame Dinner when two of our alums were honored that night. I must indicate that Dean Doty was on the selection committee and therefore one of the hosts for that event. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Farhang

Farhang Niroomand
Associate Dean

As Niroomand indicates, funding for the trip was provided via requisition # 4712, which was entered in the Purchase Order submitted to fund the Dean's Office trip to Jackson. That purchase order is reproduced below:

Purchase Order

**The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

Purchase Order **USMPO-0001025695**

Revision

Department: Dean's Office Business

Date 06/02/2004

Vendor:

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

1695 HIGH STREET
JACKSON MS 39202

Payment Terms
Net 30

Requisition Id
0000004712

Requestor
Marler, Sheila

Buyer:
Morgan, Joe

Line #	Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	14.00	Laureate Induction Banquet	150.00	2,100.00

CONFIRMATION OF SERVICES RENDERED

Total PO Amount

As the PO states, 14 people attended the Laureate Induction Banquet at the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame, courtesy of the CoB Dean's Office. The total cost of the trip was \$2,100. These figures (facts) are confirmed by the invoice sent to Emile Dieth, CoB Development Officer. That invoice is reproduced below:

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS
HALL OF FAME

Emile Dieth
University of Southern Mississippi

LAUREATE INDUCTION BANQUET

Monday, May 10, 2004

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Jackson, Mississippi

INVOICE
PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

**PATRON'S TABLES
& INDIVIDUAL SEATS**

_____	Table(s) of eight persons @ \$1,200	\$.00
<u>14</u>	Seat(s) @ \$150 per person	\$ 2,100

Total Amount Due \$2,100.00

Please Make Check Payable To:

“BUSINESS HALL OF FAME”

and THANK YOU!

A number of questions arise with regard to this trip. Aside from Niroomand, Doty, and perhaps Dieth, there were 11 other individuals who attended the Laureate Induction Banquet in Jackson on that May of 2004 evening, all courtesy of USM’s CoB. Were these eleven Business Advisory Council members? If so, has the BAC organization’s overhead been *underestimated* in a prior commentary (“BAC Equals BAd Charity”) available at usmpride.com? Also, if Doty served on the selection committee, did he have to pay to attend the event? Not only does it seem odd Doty was made to pay \$150 to attend, it would seem he would have been allowed the courtesy of having guests accompany him to the event as well.

This document provides an example of the type of spending that the CoB Dean’s office routinely engages in. The research team is coming across a number of correspondences between Niroomand and individuals such as Joe Morgan and Barbara Davis that appear to be special requests to gain access to State funds. We are continuing to dig through these.