

Mock Interview with Farhang Niroomand, Part 1

by Hal Greene

HG: News that you were [hired as the new business school dean](#) at the University of Houston -- Victoria really surprised and delighted a number of people. Tell us how this all came about.

FN: I don't know how it happened. I never applied for [that] job. Harold [Doty] told me that there is some website that posts stories about USM's business college, and he thinks it sent [UH-V] my vita. I never did. I never wanted [that] job.

HG: So you're saying that you didn't send them your resume and that you don't even want the job?

FN: My health is very bad. I also have [a] grant with the U.S. Department of Education that needs my attention. Then there's my important work with Omicron Delta Epsilon. I think I should remain [a] full-time faculty, and not become [an] administrator.

HG: So, if this is all true, then why didn't you contact officials at UH-V and let them know that you wanted to withdraw yourself from consideration?

FN: After I read the press release they sent out, and after I got Dean [Lance] Nail's e-mail congratulating me, I wrote [a] letter to UH-V resigning from my new post there as dean.

HG: What happened with that?

FN: I didn't choose to become dean there, they picked me. President [Tim] Hudson informed me that I had already been picked and that I had to serve.

HG: What I'm hearing, then, is that you are going over there to be the new dean, even though you don't want to. Is that correct?

FN: Yes. I will go there in June. I don't want the job, but I will go.

HG: What will you do there as dean?

FN: I will let them know that even if I never wanted to be their dean I will fight for all of my faculties. I will not let [the] central administration do anything to them. I will let each of them know [this], and that I was *picked* to be their dean . . . I didn't *ask to be* dean.

HG: Some in USM's CoB say that your management style is abrasive, if not abusive. How do you respond to that?

FN: Who said that? Tell me! Who told you that?

HG: I can't tell you that, and it appears, from your response, that you are unwilling to fairly address this issue. Let's move on. What qualifies you to be the new business school dean at UH-V?

FN: I learned very much while I was dean at USM from 1998-2007. UH-V is [a] smaller school, so I will be prepared.

HG: Just a correction . . . I think you meant to say "associate dean" at USM . . . right?

FN: I stand by my statement. Everyone knows.

HG: Okay. I would guess that people at UH-V wanted to know why you resigned your administrative post at USM *during the academic year* back in 2007. How did you address that?

FN: Do you want to hear that I was fired? Is that what you want? . . . for me to tell you that I was fired?! I resigned! I had been [an] administrator for 10 years, and I never wanted any of it!

HG: While you were an administrator at USM, how did you refer to Doty in the presence of others?

FN: A\$\$*@*#.

HG: What if that is said about you at UH-V?

FN: It won't be. I will know. If someone says that, they will pay.

Part 2 Coming Soon . . .