

## Mock Interview with Farhang Niroomand, Part 2

by Hal Greene

**HG:** An investigation uncovered the fact that you recently spent \$75,000 on university travel over only a 59-month period. What do you have to say about that?

**FN:** I was [a] college administrator at that time. There were important things to be done. I had dinner with colleagues and made several academic visits, I think to Atlanta, Seattle, West Lafayette and Baton Rouge. There were also [some] international academic visits that I made. I recruited several faculties in economics and international business. Much of the travel was related to my grant "From Local to Global." Have you heard of that one? Many have. It is very important.

**HG:** Still, it's \$75,000 we're talking about.

**FN:** Yes, and I have documentation for every penny of it. Do you want to hear that this is why I was fired? Is that what you want me to tell you?

**HG:** You seem to have a volatile temper. There is even some testimony that you once told a faculty member, in a private meeting, that you would "kick [their] ass." Is this what faculty at Houston-Victoria have to look forward to?

**FN:** I don't know what you mean or what you are talking about. Every college has disgruntled faculties. We have had one or two who have caused all kinds of problems.

**HG:** What portion of the blame do you take for the CoB's failed AACSB re-accreditation attempt in 2007?

**FN:** What failed AACSB re-accreditation attempt? Who told you that? The AACSB team visited and liked what they saw. They wanted to follow up later to pick up more information to show other colleges what we were doing. There was no continuing review.

**HG:** If the AACSB visit was good, why did you and Harold Doty resign right after their report came back?

**FN:** I told you, my health is not good. I also have [a] grant that needed my attention, and I had just become [the] head of [the] ODE. Do you want to hear that I was fired? Is that what you want me to tell you? Provost Grimes told [the] CoB faculty that I had written a resignation letter weeks before. That is correct. I never wanted to be [an] administrator in [the] CoB. [William] Gunther needed me. Later, Harold [Doty] did too. Neither would allow me to resign, until we both did.

**HG:** Okay . . . let's lighten this up for a moment. While you were a CoB administrator, you often drove either a BMW or an Acura. What will you drive as dean at UH-V?

**FN:** I don't know. I need to get there and get my wife [a] job. I think maybe [a] Lexus. But again, I don't know.

**HG:** What do you mean by "get [your] wife [a] job?"

**FN:** That is nothing . . . not important. We are here to talk about me, and the University of Houston [at] Victoria.

**HG:** I can accept that. What do you think about CoB marketing professor Elizabeth LaFleur?

**FN:** Alvin Williams brought her here, not me.

**HG:** What about CoB assistant professor of international business John Lambert?

**FN:** George [Carter] and [Charles] Sawyer.

**HG:** Okay. What about CoB economics instructor Susan Doty?

**FN:** Harold [Doty].

**HG:** Didn't you try to bring Sahar Bahmani [Grasse] here?

**FN:** Where did you hear that? Who told you that?

**Part 3 Coming Soon . . .**