

Niroomand's New Web

Documents from UH-Victoria Indicate that Former USM AD Hasn't Changed

A report published months ago by USMNEWS.net entitled "[June Travel Bug](#)" analyzes some of the university travels of Farhang Niroomand, the dean of business at the University of Houston-Victoria and the former associate dean of business at USM (1998-2007). That report is, at least in part, a summary of [other reports here](#) at USMNEWS.net [detailing](#) aspects of Niroomand's [supposed](#) work-related [travel](#) as UH-V business school dean. One of the foundational reports is a *Special Report* entitled "[Same Ol' Niroomand](#)," which chronicles a June-2010 trip Niroomand made from Victoria back to Hattiesburg, reportedly to attend and/or participate in "an ODE event." That report indicates that Niroomand's trip back to Mississippi covered June 17-21 of 2010, and that \$1,400 in "local funds" were allocated by then-UH-V provost Suzanne LaBrecque to reimburse Niroomand for this trip – one that he stated was for the purpose of "attend[ing] as the Executive Treasurer of Omicron Delta Epsilon." The "[Same Ol' Niroomand?](#)" report then [raised](#) a number of interesting questions and considerations:

- Why would UH-V reimburse Niroomand for an ODE event? An ODE officer should be funded by ODE, no?
- USMNEWS.net sources state that USM has never had anything like an "ODE event," particularly not one that lasted three to five days, as Niroomand suggests.
- At the time of the event, at least as indicated by Niroomand, USM's economics department was being eliminated (it had only one week left to exist), five senior professors had been forced into retirement, and all of the remaining (junior) economics professors were in the process of leaving USM.

A column by USMNEWS.net's [Victoria Tyler](#) suggested that Niroomand used the trip to say goodbye to a number of former colleagues and long-time friends who were essentially being booted out of academia by USM president Martha Saunders.

Reports now coming into USMNEWS.net indicate that Niroomand was upset with some of the late-2010 reporting about his travels through UH-V. In a meeting with UH-V business faculty on 4-February-2011, Niroomand bragged about how the ODE International has entrusted him to care for \$350,000, with an additional \$200,000 arriving in Niroomand-managed ODE coffers each year. He also presented UH-V business school faculty with documents stating that ODE, not UH-V, had funded his June-2010 trip to Hattiesburg.

In addition to these reports, USMNEWS.net has obtained other documents related to Niroomand's June-2010 trip to Hattiesburg. One of these is the "**Voucher**" that is inserted below:

Voucher

Business Unit: 00765 **PO ID:**
Voucher ID: 00063575

Vendor ID: 0000083841
Name: FARHANG NIROOMAND
Address: 1

Vendor Class: USA
Employee - State/Student

Invoice ID: SBUNIRO062110
Contract ID:
Invoice Receipt Date: 06/23/2010 **Invoice Date:** 06/21/2010
Goods Receipt Date: 06/21/2010 **Acceptance Date:** 06/21/2010

PCC: 1
Bank: BOAV
Scheduled Due Date: 07/01/2010
Gross Amount: \$631.11

Old Voucher Comments:

New Voucher Comments: NIROOMAND: DROVE PERSONAL VEHICLE FROM UHSSL (MILEAGE TO UHSSL SEE VOUCHER 63588) TO HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH) TO TAKE A FLIGHT TO HATTIESBURG, MS TO ATTEND THE OMICRON DELTA EPSILON (ODE) HONOR SOCIETY EVENT IN HATTIESBURG, MS. TRAVEL WAS FROM 06/17/10-06/21/10. HOTEL WAS PAID FOR BY THE ODE SOCIETY. B/P: TO ATTEND THE EVENT AS THE ODE TREASURER AND PROMOTE UHV AND THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROGRAMS.

Payment Comments:

Handling: BP
Budget Check: Valid Budget Check **Source:** SBU

Acct./Desc.	Fund Dept.	Prog.	Bud. Ref.	Proj.	Chartfield 1	Amount	Description
56415	2064 V0019	A0304	BP2010	NA		242.90	NIROOMAND, F TSBUNIRO062110
cdv-out of sta-pub trans-cmpl							
56413	2064 V0019	A0304	BP2010	NA		224.40	NIROOMAND, F TSBUNIRO062110
cdv-out of sta-per diem meal &							
56409	2064 V0019	A0304	BP2010	NA		95.81	NIROOMAND, F TSBUNIRO062110
cdv-out-of-sta mileage							
56412	2064 V0019	A0304	BP2010	NA		68.00	NIROOMAND, F TSBUNIRO062110
cdv-out of sta incidentals							

As the **Voucher** above states, Niroomand's hotel for 6/17-6/21 of June-2010 was covered by "THE ODE SOCIETY." It also, however, indicates, at least by omission, that his drive from Victoria to Houston, and his flight from Houston to Hattiesburg (and back), were not. The insert above shows that Niroomand appears to have drawn from four [separate pots](#) of UH-V [money](#) (see insert above) to cover the expenses listed there. Lastly with regard to the **Voucher** above, Niroomand notes that the purpose of the visit was "to attend the event as the ODE Treasurer and promote UHV and the school of business programs." The latter part, about "promotion," is a tactic Niroomand often used on his travel vouchers with USM.

The information in this report raises old concerns, and introduces some new ones. Two of these are:

- Why would the UH-V **Voucher** explicitly indicate that *ODE covered the hotel* when there are numerous other expenses associated with this trip?

- When Niroomand addressed the UH-V business faculty on 4-February-2011, why did he not also present to them a stack of documents (brochures, webpages, etc.) highlighting “the ODE event” at USM?

The quick answers are (1) that ODE did not cover *all* of Niroomand’s expenses regarding the June-2010 trip to Hattiesburg, and (2) that USM never hosted any 3-5 day “ODE event” during June-2010 (or any other time). As this report points out, UH-V business school faculty clearly have their work cut out for them in policing Niroomand’s activities.