

Niroomand's *Little Junkets*

How Even the Low-Cost Trips that Niroomand Takes Often Add Up to Something Big

As readers have seen in some instances, Farhang Niroomand's university travel expenses come in below four-figure sums. Still, the former CoB associate dean, and current University of Houston - Victoria business school dean, takes so many trips that even the lowest-cost journeys add up to significant sums of money. This report takes a look at some of the lower-cost jaunts made by Niroomand since becoming the UH-V b-school leader in 2008. Table 1 below presents information on *some* of these types of trips, in this case totaling more than \$1,800.

Table 1 - Niroomand's *Little Junkets*

Dates of Trip	Trip Description	Trip Destination	Trip Cost
1/1/2010 - 1/5/2010	American Economic Association Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA	\$400
1/7/2010 - 1/8/2010	UH-V President's Retreat	Rockport, TX	\$309
2/18/2010 - 2/21/2010	Association of College Honor Societies Annual Meeting	Boston, MA	\$300
4/14/2010 - 4/15/2010	15 th Annual Western Hemisphere & Global Recovery Conference	Laredo, TX	\$400
7/8/2010 - 7/9/2010	External Reviewer for BIE Grant at Texas A&M International University	Laredo, TX	\$400
			\$1,809

Though the information in Table 1 above is interesting, what is not shown there, but is included on the original travel vouchers, is even more intriguing. The travel vouchers are all inserted at the end of this report. Regarding the trip to Atlanta for the 2010 American Economic Association meeting, Niroomand states that he attended in order to "promote the [UH-V] School of Business and it's [sic] Economics Programs." Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Niroomand's written rationale is laughable in arguing that his Jan-2010 presence in Atlanta "promote[d]" the UH-V economics programs. At least the trip cost the Texas taxpayers *only* \$400.

The third trip above - to the Association of College Honor Societies Annual Meeting in Boston - cost Texas taxpayers \$300. Niroomand notes on the travel voucher that he attended this meeting in his capacity as Executive Secretary and Treasurer of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society in economics, and that his expenses were being paid by that organization. He does also note, however, that some of his travel expenses were not covered by ODE, and that UH-V would have to claim those. Thus, the \$300 invoice to UH-V mentioned above. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that ODE's financial support of Niroomand on this occasion [supports the argument made in an](#)

[earlier report in this series](#) that the organization would also have supported his trip to Hattiesburg had it truly been an “Omicron Delta Epsilon event.”

The fourth trip in Table 1 above is also interesting. Niroomand notes on the travel voucher that he went to chair a session at the invitation of the organization. If it were truly an “invitation,” sources tell USMNEWS.net that the Western Hemisphere/Global Recovery group would have paid for Niroomand’s visit to Laredo. Of course, that did not materialize, calling into question Niroomand’s use of the term “invitation.” Now it appears as though a [Niroomand practice](#) – stating that one was invited to go somewhere, yet without any financial support from the party doing the inviting – has made its way to from Hattiesburg to Victoria.

The final trip in the group of five in Table 1 above has Niroomand traveling back to Laredo, this time to review a Business and International Education (BIE) grant held by faculty at Texas A&M International University. The trip *cost UH-V* \$400, though sources say that the U.S. Department of Education should have covered the expenses given that, in reviewing TAMIU’s BIE grant, Niroomand was providing a service to the DoE. Sources say that it appears, once again, that Niroomand is either (1) passing off others’ costs onto UH-V, or (2) misleading UH-V and UHS officials when it comes to the purpose(s) of his university travel.

University of Houston Victoria

T₆ SBUNIRO010510

Travel Request

Business Unit: 00765 Date MM/DD/YY: 12/18/09

Name of Traveler Farhang Nirroomand Title: Dean, School of Business Administration

Department: School of Business Administration Traveler's Phone# 361-570-4248

Department Contact: Mary Field Dept Contact Phone # 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)

Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student

Other _____ Passengers (list name(s)) _____

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX

Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX Destination City/State/Country Atlanta, GA

Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 01/01/10 Return Date MM/DD/YY: 01/05/10

Purpose/Benefit of Travel	<p>Purpose</p> <p>To Attend: <u>Attend the American Economic Association's Annual Meeting</u></p> <p>(Location) City: <u>Atlanta</u> State/Country: <u>Georgia</u></p>
	<p>Benefit to University</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>To promote the School of Business and it's Economic Programs</u></p>

Estimated Travel Expenditures	Local Funds	State Funds	Total Funds
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV	_____	+ _____	= <u>0.00</u>
Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV	_____	+ _____	= <u>0.00</u>
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV	<u>400.00</u>	+ _____	= <u>400.00</u>
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV	<u>\$400.00</u>	+ <u>\$0.00</u>	= <u>\$400.00</u>

Type of Expenses:					Estimated cost of travel below:	
_____ Fund <u>2064</u>	_____ DeptID <u>V0019</u>	_____ Prog <u>A0304</u>	_____ Proj <u>NA</u>	_____ Speed Type <u>10551</u>	_____ Amount <u>\$400.00</u>	_____
_____ Fund _____	_____ DeptID _____	_____ Prog _____	_____ Proj _____	_____ Speed Type _____	_____ Amount _____	_____
_____ Fund _____	_____ DeptID _____	_____ Prog _____	_____ Proj _____	_____ Speed Type _____	_____ Amount _____	_____
_____ Fund _____	_____ DeptID _____	_____ Prog _____	_____ Proj _____	_____ Speed Type _____	_____ Amount _____	_____
_____ Fund _____	_____ DeptID _____	_____ Prog _____	_____ Proj _____	_____ Speed Type _____	_____ Amount _____	_____

Signatures	Date MM/DD/YY
Supervisor (Required) = <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>12/18/09</u>
Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>12/20/09</u>
Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = _____	_____
President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (if required) = _____	_____
Chancellor or designee (if required) = _____	_____
Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>1/4/10</u>

University of Houston Victoria

TSBUMR0010810

Travel Request

Business Unit: 00765 Date MM/DD/YY: 01/12/10

Name of Traveler Farhang Nirroomand Title: Dean, School of Business

Department: School of Business Administration Traveler's Phone# 361-570-4248

Department Contact: Mary Field Dept Contact Phone # 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)

Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student

Other Passengers (list name(s)) Tim Hudson, Jeffrey DiLeo

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX

Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX USA Destination City/State/Country Rockport, TX USA

Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 01/07/10 Return Date MM/DD/YY: 01/08/10

Purpose/Benefit of Travel	<p>Purpose</p> <p>To Attend: <u>To attend the President's cabinet retreat being held at the Lighthouse Inn in Rockport, TX</u></p> <p>(Location) City: <u>Rockport</u> State/Country: <u>Texas</u></p>
Benefit to University	<p style="text-align: center;">Required to attend as Dean of the School of Business Administration</p>

Estimated Travel Expenditures	Local Funds	State Funds	Total Funds
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV	_____	+	= <u>0.00</u>
Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV	<u>109.00</u>	+	= <u>109.00</u>
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV	<u>200.00</u>	+	= <u>200.00</u>
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV	<u>\$309.00</u>	+	= <u>\$309.00</u>

Type of Expenses:						Estimated cost of travel below:						
_____	Fund	<u>2064</u>	DeptID	<u>V0019</u>	Prog	<u>A0304</u>	Proj	<u>NA</u>	Speed Type	<u>10551</u>	Amount	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>Hotel</u>	Fund	<u>2064</u>	DeptID	<u>V0001</u>	Prog	<u>F0311</u>	Proj	<u>NA</u>	Speed Type	<u>10673</u>	Amount	<u>\$109.00</u>
_____	Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____

Signatures	Date MM/DD/YY
Supervisor (Required) = <u><i>Mary Field</i></u>	<u>1-12-10</u>
Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = <u><i>for Suzanne Sabatone</i></u>	_____
Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = <u><i>F. Nirroomand</i></u>	<u>1/14/10</u>
President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (if required) = _____	_____
Chancellor or designee (if required) = _____	<u>1/12/10</u>
Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = _____	_____

University of Houston Victoria

T SBUM10022110

Travel Request

Business Unit: 00765 Date MM/DD/YY: 02/01/10

Name of Traveler Farhang Niroomand Title: Dean, School of Business Administration

Department: School of Business Administration Traveler's Phone# 361-570-4248

Department Contact: Mary Field Dept Contact Phone # 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)

Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student

Other _____ Passengers (list name(s)) _____

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX

Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX USA Destination City/State/Country Boston, MA

Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 02/18/10 Return Date MM/DD/YY: 02/21/10

Purpose/Benefit of Travel	<p>Purpose</p> <p>To Attend: <u>To Attend the Association of College Honor Societies Annual Meeting being held in Boston, MA as the Executive Secretary and Treasurer of Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society. Omicron Delta Epsilon is paying for his expenses, some expenses won't be covered and will have to be paid by UHV.</u></p> <p>(Location) City: <u>Boston</u> State/Country: <u>MA</u></p>
Benefit to University	<p>To participate in the Association of College Honor Societies Annual meeting and to promote UHV and the School of Business.</p>

Estimated Travel Expenditures	Local Funds	+	State Funds	=	Total Funds
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV	_____	+	_____	=	0.00
Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV	_____	+	_____	=	0.00
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV	300.00	+	_____	=	300.00
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV	<u>300.00</u>	+	<u>\$0.00</u>	=	<u>\$300.00</u>

Type of Expenses:						Estimated cost of travel below:	
_____	Fund <u>2064</u>	DeptID <u>V0019</u>	Prog <u>A0304</u>	Proj <u>NA</u>	Speed Type <u>10551</u>	Amount <u>\$300.00</u>	
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type _____	Amount _____	
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type _____	Amount _____	
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type _____	Amount _____	
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type _____	Amount _____	
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type _____	Amount _____	

Signatures Date MM/DD/YY

Supervisor (Required) = *A. Habberger* 2/2/10

Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = *F. Niroomand* 2/3/10

Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = _____

President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (if required) = _____

Chancellor or designee (if required) = _____

Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = _____

University of Houston Victoria

T SBUA21RD 04/15/10

Travel Request

Business Unit: 00765 Date MM/DD/YY: 04/12/10
 Name of Traveler Farhang Niroomand Title: Dean, School of Business
 Department: School of Business Administration Traveler's Phone# 361-570-4248
 Department Contact: Mary Field Dept Contact Phone # 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)
 Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student
 Other _____ Passengers (list name(s)) _____

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX
 Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX USA Destination City/State/Country LAREDO Austin, TX
 Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 12/14/10 Return Date MM/DD/YY: 12/15/10
04/14/10 04/15/10

Purpose/Benefit of Travel	<p>Purpose</p> <p>To Attend: <u>To chair a session at the 15th Annual Western Hemisphere and Global Recovery Conference being held at Texas A&M International University</u></p> <p>(Location) City: <u>Laredo</u> State/Country: <u>Texas</u></p>
Benefit to University	<p>To chair a session at the invitation of the conference.</p>

Estimated Travel Expenditures	Local Funds	State Funds	Total Funds
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV	_____	+	= _____
Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV	_____	+	= _____
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV	400.00	+	= 400.00
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV	<u>400.00</u>	+	+ <u>\$0.00</u> = <u>400.00</u>

Type of Expenses:						Estimated cost of travel below:					
Fund	2064	DeptID	V0019	Prog	A0304	Proj	NA	Speed Type	10551	Amount	\$400.00
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fund	_____	DeptID	_____	Prog	_____	Proj	_____	Speed Type	_____	Amount	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signatures Date MM/DD/YY

Supervisor (Required) = *F. Niroomand* 4/12/10

Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = *F. Niroomand* 4/12/10

Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = _____ _____

President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (If required) = _____ _____

Chancellor or designee (If required) = _____ _____

Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = _____ _____

University of Houston Victoria

Travel Request

T _____

Business Unit: 00765 **Date MM/DD/YY:** 06/15/10

Name of Traveler Farhang Niroomand **Title:** Dean, School of Business

Department: School of Business Administration **Traveler's Phone#** 361-570-4248

Department Contact: Mary Field **Dept Contact Phone #** 361-570-4248

Classification of Traveler (check one)

Faculty Staff Prospective Employee Student

Other _____ Passengers (list name(s)) _____

Designated Headquarters UHV 3007 N. Ben Wilson Victoria, TX

Departure City/State/Country Victoria, TX USA **Destination City/State/Country** Laredo, TX

Departure Date MM/DD/YY: 07/08/10 **Return Date MM/DD/YY:** 07/09/10

Purpose/Benefit of Travel	Purpose	To be external reviewer for the Business and International Education (BIE) Grant being held at Texas A&M International University
	To Attend:	_____
	(Location)	City: <u>Laredo</u> State/Country: <u>Texas</u>
	Benefit to University	To be an external reviewer

Estimated Travel Expenditures	Local Funds	State Funds	Total Funds
Travel Expenses direct billed to UHV	_____	+	= <u>0.00</u>
Hotel expenses direct-billed to UHV	_____	+	= <u>0.00</u>
Travel expenses to be reimbursed by UHV	<u>400.00</u>	+	= <u>400.00</u>
Total expenditures to be paid or reimbursed by UHV	<u>\$400.00</u>	+	= <u>\$400.00</u>

Type of Expenses:						Estimated cost of travel below:	
_____	Fund <u>2064</u>	DeptID <u>V0019</u>	Prog <u>A0304</u>	Proj <u>NA</u>	Speed Type	<u>10551</u>	Amount <u>\$400.00</u>
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type	_____	Amount _____
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type	_____	Amount _____
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type	_____	Amount _____
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type	_____	Amount _____
_____	Fund _____	DeptID _____	Prog _____	Proj _____	Speed Type	_____	Amount _____

Signatures	Date MM/DD/YY
Supervisor (Required) = _____	_____
Certifying Signatory for the Cost Center (Required) = _____	_____
Contract/Grant Approval (If applicable) = _____	_____
President, Provost, or VP For Admin & Finance (if required) = _____	_____
Chancellor or designee (if required) = _____	_____
Finance Travel Analyst (If Applicable) = _____	_____