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## **Passport Series: Dean's Office**

### **Tracking Potential International Travel in the College of Business since 2002**

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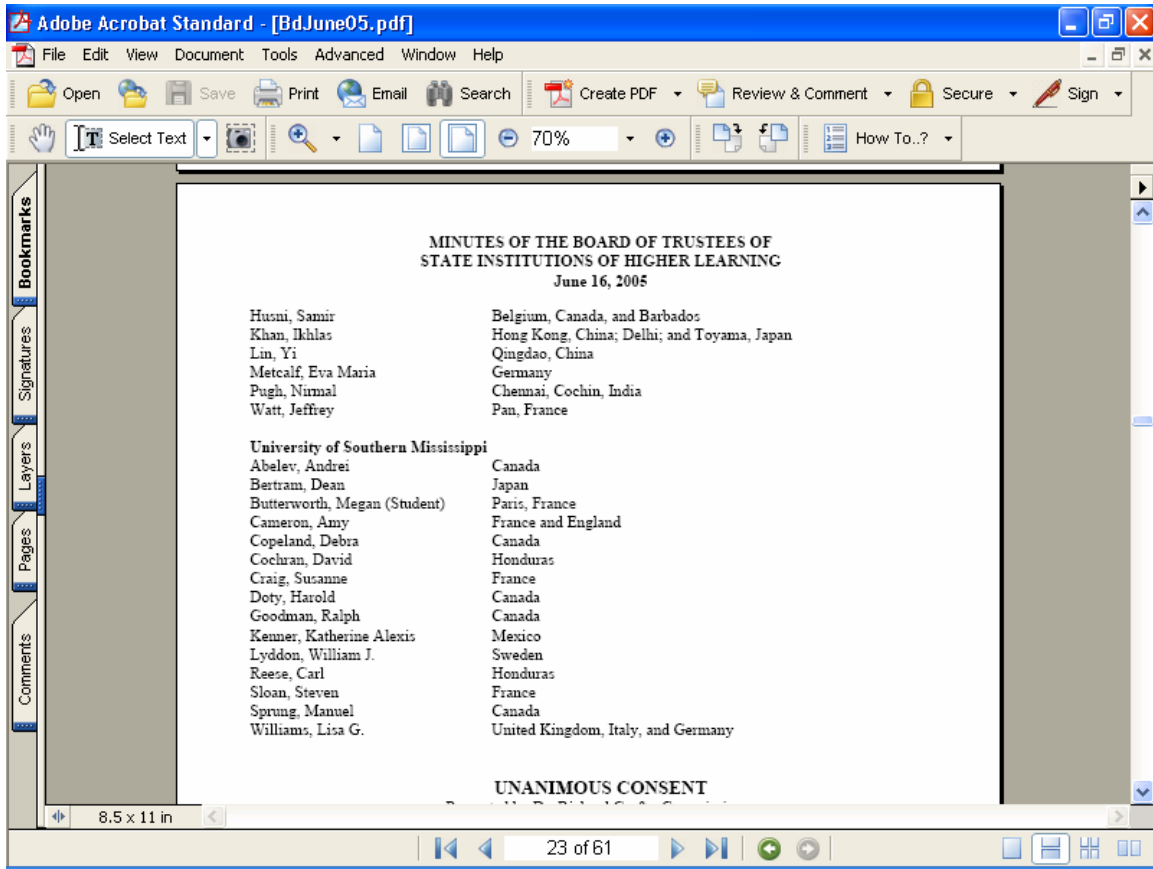
We are told that, for the first time during his tenure at USM, CoB Dean Harold Doty (Professor of Management) attended the Academy of International Business Meeting this year, which took place in Beijing, China. A recent visit to the association's webpage revealed that both he and Farhang Niroomand (CoB Associate Dean and Professor of Economics) were registered participants at the 2006 AIB meetings in China. Neither of these individuals lists, in their SEDONA records (SEDONA as of 5/2/06), travel to these meetings in any year (present or past), despite having been registered participants in 2006. Perhaps these listings are not present because this meeting occurred after the 2006 merit raise evaluation period. That may be so, however Jennifer Sequeira (Assistant Professor of Management) lists 2006 paper presentations in Ghana and Melbourne, both of which occurred after the 2006 merit raise process (Sequeira's listings are presented in a prior "Passport Series").

In our reports, we indicated that a faculty's international travel expenditures might be overstated (e.g., coauthor presentations, etc.). This account suggests that one's international travel can also be understated, as will occur in other cases where a CoB faculty member travels to a conference overseas but does not participate in any official way.

As an example of the "overstatement" possibility, our prior report stated that Charles Sawyer (Professor of Economics) may have traveled to the 2005 Academy of International Business meetings in Canada, in order to present a paper there. However, Sawyer's paper is coauthored with an associate who does not appear to be affiliated with USM. It is possible Sawyer did not make the trip.

This report serves to illustrate the limitations of examining foreign travel using written records like those in SEDONA. It indicates why we chose to use "Potential" in the subheading of our exercises. Having provided the explanation above, information is verifiable in certain instances, as a check of the IHL Board Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2005 indicates (IHL Board minutes are available online). Our check of IHL Board meetings verifies that Sawyer appears to have made the trip to Canada.

In an effort to present this information, we ran across something very intriguing in the June 16, 2006, IHL Board minutes. What was found is detailed in the screen below, which is an excerpt from page 23 of the Minutes document:



The excerpt above presents a list of USM employees who were allowed to travel abroad based on “Emergency approval of foreign travel” that was “granted by Commissioner Richard Crofts per *Board Policy 705.0103*”. That list contains the name “Harold Doty” – Dean of the College of Business at USM. His destination – Canada.

Our remaining questions: Was that trip to the AIB Meeting? Has Doty’s travel to AIB meetings actually been a traditional event, unknown to most CoB faculty? We await more answers.