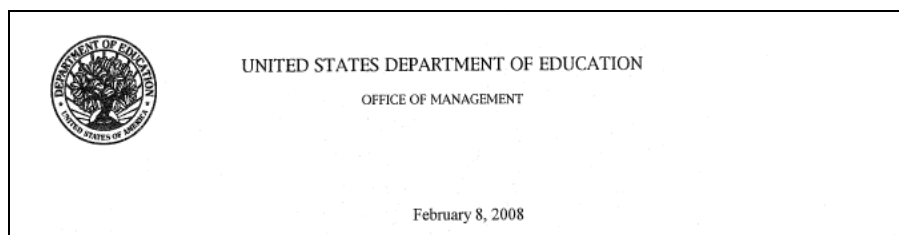


Puffed by Association

Part II of a Look Back on Farhang Niroomand's BIE Incubator

On 8 February 2008, reporters at USMNEWS.NET received a response from the U.S. Department of Education's Maria-Teresa Cueva to a request, through 5 U.S.C. § 552 – *The Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) – for documentation regarding former CoB Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand's, application for a Business and International Education (BIE) grant.



That DoE program, CFDA #84.153A, has provided Niroomand with tens of thousands of dollars throughout the years for use in setting up a business and international education “incubator,” a project that Niroomand has used time and again as a [self-promotion tool](#) within USM and beyond. This report, Part II in a series, continues our examination of the “puffery” employed by Niroomand (in his grant application) in order to secure the DoE funds used to set up the BIE incubator at USM.¹



Farhang Niroomand

In this installment, we examine the puffery associated with Niroomand's proposed BIE incubator staffers.

The first CoB faculty Niroomand lists for assistance with his BIE grant is Linghui Tang, former assistant professor of international business in USM's CoB.² Of all the proposed staffers, Niroomand touts Tang's qualifications the least. In his application,

¹ As long-time readers of USMNEWS.NET will recall, “puffery” is a term former USM economist, Charles Sawyer, used to describe EFIB Chair George Carter's [dubious claim](#) to have been the [Interim MS IHL Commissioner](#) in 1987.

² Tang is now employed by the College of New Jersey.

Niroomand simply provides Tang's educational background, lists a few of her journal publications, and includes the professional associations of which Tang is a member. It would seem that, in looking at Niroomand's BIE grant proposal, his (Niroomand's) rare talents for puffery are saved for others, beginning with Chang-Tseh Hsieh.

Hsieh, the McCarty Professor of Information Systems and long-time beneficiary, through Niroomand, of CoB largesse, is described by Niroomand as follows:

Chang-Tseh Hsieh, Ph.D.-5% of time spent on projects

Dr. Hsieh is the distinguished McCarty Professor of MIS at USM and has been at the university since 1988. Dr. Hsieh earned his Ph.D. at Perdue University and an M.B.A. at the University of Southern Mississippi. He also obtained a B.A. in Business from the National Taiwan University. He was the coordinator for the MIS program at USM from 1995-1996 and was a visiting scholar of MIS at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1994. A prolific author and experienced editor, Dr. Hsieh has published articles in the *Journal of Financial Research*, *Journal of System Management*, *Journal of Computer Information System*, *Journal of Information Technology*, and *Journal of Information System Management*, among others. Dr. Hsieh also is in the second year of a three-year term as the editor of the *Journal of International Technology and Information Systems*, a peer-review academic journal of the International Information Management Association.

As shown above, Niroomand describes Hsieh, who holds a PhD from "Perdue (sic) University," as the holder of "the distinguished" McCarty Professorship, a "prolific author" and "experienced editor." As for the above journals, a GOOGLE search describes the *Journal of Systems Management* as a "magazine on business information systems."



Chang-Tseh Hsieh

A trip into the USMNEWS.NET Archives reveals that Hsieh is one of the CoB's worst offenders when it comes to [In-House Journal Publishing](#). The archived

document (at left), and others, indicate that Hsieh's contributions to some of the journals above extends well into the past.

Perhaps Niroomand's most egregious example of pufferizing potential CoB BIE incubator staff comes with his description of economics professor, Mark Klinedinst.



Mark Klinedinst

The following quote about Klinedinst from Niroomand is enough to leave CoB faculty familiar with the CoB's history speechless . . . and breathless:

“Dr. Klinedinst has been at USM since 1986 at which time he rapidly promoted through the ranks of professor indicating his strength at both research and teaching.”

Long-time readers of USMNEWS.NET are aware that, all [bragging](#) aside, both of Klinedinst's promotions – from assistant [to associate](#), and from associate [to full](#) – arguably rank among the most inexplicable promotions, in terms of the [merits](#), in the history of the CoB. As sources indicated in the past, the [real story](#) about Klinedinst comes from his involvement in various CoB political scandals, some of which have served Niroomand.

Stay tuned. Part III in this series will delve into some of the financial data associated with Niroomand's BIE incubator.