Pump You Up!

A Look at the Professional Recording Practices of Farhang Niroomand

Few, if any, CoB faculty go to the lengths that professor of economics and former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand goes to in order to "promote" his professional accomplishments to other faculty and administrators at the University of Southern Mississippi. There is perhaps no better example of Niroomand's "resume pumping" than that found in the 2005 USM Faculty Activity Report (FAR05), which was made available by USM's Office of Institutional Research (see below).

The University of Southern Mississippi Office of Institutional Research

Faculty Activity Report Summary Year: 2005

In order to examine Niroomand's entries, investigators looked at the CoB's "Response Summaries" (see below) to each of the FAR05 questions. Although the answers provided

The University of Southern Mississippi Office of Institutional Research

Faculty Activity Report Summary College of Business Year 2005

are anonymous, in most cases making an ownership determination is easy enough for CoB undergraduates. As such, our investigators had little difficulty deciphering the authors' names in most cases.

Our analysis begins quite early in the CoB portion of the report, with question T03 in the teaching section. That question, along with the answer provided by Niroomand, is inserted below:

T03- For the Calendar Year, Undergraduate Research Projects Directed (Enter Students' Names)

23 students in ECO 436 during Spring 2005 semester

While other faculty listed the names (as directed) of the students they mentored, mainly through the CoB's Business Advisory Council Scholars Program, Niroomand essentially notes that he assigned a paper to his ECO 436 class during Spring 2005, and that there

were 23 students enrolled in that class. Keep in mind that, at the time, Niroomand was the CoB's Associate Dean *and* that the FAR05 was used by USM officials such as V.P. Joan Exline to fulfill USM's probationary obligations under SACS.

In T27, USM faculty/admins are asked to describe their professional development during 2005 (see below) that was "related to teaching and research." In that space, Niroomand

T27- For the Calendar Year, Professional Development related to teaching and research (e.g., Attended Expanding Excellence workshop; in-service; staff development, CEUs). (List).

two AACSB meetings, BIE Director's meeting, Academy of International Business meeting, Association for Global Business meeting, Southwestern Economic Association meeting

points out that he attended two AACSB meetings. He also notes that he attended the Academy of International Business meeting. The AACSB entry is comical. That Niroomand was "supported" to attend any of these meetings is troubling, given that he barely teaches anything (at least in 2005) and that he doesn't teach any international business courses, which specifically calls into question the AIB trip as "teaching" and/or "research" development.

In T38, Niroomand is asked to list the scholars he assisted in developing research. In

T38- For the Calendar year, list scholars you assisted in developing research. (Librarians). As Editor of the Journal of Current Research in Global Business, I referee, review, and make comments and suggestions on the many manuscripts that are submitted to the journal.

classic form, he points out that, "As Editor of the Journal of Current Research in Global Business," he referees, reviews and makes comments/suggestions on the many manuscripts that are submitted to the journal. Not exactly a proper answer to the question that was being asked of him. For the record, no other CoB faculty listed refereeing work they performed in 2005 as an answer to this question. Also, "the many manuscripts" comment appears to be a little "over the top."

Niroomand response to T40 (see below) is priceless:

T40- List Courses
Taught.

International Economics ECO 436

Sending people who barely teach to numerous "teaching development" conferences should be troubling to tax- and tuition-paying Mississippians.

R02a- For the Calendar
Year, list Other Invited
Presentations

Monetary and Banking Research Academy of the Central Bank of Iran

Regarding R02a above, again USMNEWS.NET asks: why didn't the Iranian Central Bank pay for this "invited" presentation, which totaled thousands of dollars (see www.usmnews.net for reports on Niroomand's travels back home to Iran)?

R04- For the Calendar
Year, list Abstracts and
Reports in Press

R05- For the Calendar
Year, list Abstracts and
Reports Published

"From Local to Global: The Internationalization of Business in Mississippi"

"From Local to Global: The Internationalization of Business in Mississippi"

"From Local to Global..." – in press (R04), published (R05) . . . on and on.

The response to R29 below appears to be Niroomand's. Isn't he an "Amigo" of the

R29- For the Calendar Year, list Awards and Honors for Intellectual, Creative Activity, and Contribution. (Award names)

R29- For the Calendar
Year, list Awards and
Best Paper Award Certificate for presenting my paper: "Determinants of Income: A probability
Approach" at the Annual meeting of the Association for Global Business

AGB, and editor of the *JCRGB*? If so, how is he eligible for this Award Certificate?

Sometimes you have to say the same things over and over in order to get your point across:

S07- For the Calendar
Year, list Local
Professional
Associations (e.g., Pine
Belt Reading Council).

ADP, Mississippi World Trade Center, Mississippi Export Assistance Center

S08- For the Calendar Year, list State Professional Associations (e.g., MS Psychology Assn.)

S08- For the Calendar

Mississippi World Trade Center, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Export

Year, list State

Assistance Center, MS International Trade Club

S15- For the Calendar Year, list Service to schools and non-profit agencies (e.g., workshop on discipline for a school district; United Way; Museum Board)

Mississippi World Trade Center, Center for Research on International Economic University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Some of Niroomand's best "pumping" involves "his international journal" (Jay Grimes quote, 10 April 2007), the *Journal of Current Research in Global Business* (see below).

S17- For the Calendar Year, enter name of journal or monograph you edited.

S17- For the Calendar The Journal of Current Research in Global Business

S19- For the Calendar Year, Member of Editorial Boards (List the journal, monograph, or collection)

The Journal of Current Research in Global Business, Center for Research on International Economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Did you know that the CIE at UW-Milwaukee was a journal and/or monograph? We didn't.

More *JCRGB* "pumping":

S23- For the Calendar Year, list Reviews of Journal Articles Submitted for Publication

Journal of Current Research in Global Business

Question

A01- For the Calendar Year, List any Administrative Responsibilities.

Response

Associate Dean for the College of Business, Project Director: From Local to Global a Title VI-B grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Editor, Journal of Current Research in Global Business A02- For the Calendar Year, List Administrative Contibutions such as Program Development.

Director, Information Technology Certificate Program, Director, International Business Information Technology Incubator, Editor, Journal of Curent Research in Global Business, Inviting Max Kreinin Distinughied Professor of Economic at Michigan State as the speaker for the "Issues and Answers" Series sponsered by The Sun Herald and the University of Southern Mississippi

The *JCRGB* may not be all things to all people, but it appears to be all things to Farhang Niroomand.

This report is but one of many examples available at www.usmnews.net concerning the "resume pumping" of former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. In future reports, we will continue our examination of the USM 2005 FAR.