

Renu's Renegades

A GUEST EDITORIAL

The recent USMNEWS.net editorial ([18-Oct-2011](#)) on University of Houston-Victoria business dean [Farhang Niroomand](#) is right on the mark. While he was associate dean of the CoB at USM under Harold Doty (2003-07), now the wayward business dean at the University of Texas-Tyler, Niroomand had to be “pulled away” from various CoB faculty on multiple occasions. On one occasion, Niroomand got himself so overheated during a 30 minute harangue of a junior faculty (in Niroomand’s office) that Niroomand’s own health suffered so much that emergency medical personnel had to be summoned to USM’s campus in order to care for USM’s explosive associate dean of business.

Yes, [Renu Khator](#), the chancellor and president of Texas’ University of Houston System, has a renegade business dean (down in Victoria) on her hands. Current USM president Martha Saunders dealt with Doty and Niroomand, her potential renegade b-school executives, a month before she arrived in Hattiesburg to take the reins at USM. Khator hasn’t seen fit to make that move as of yet, although the cadre of “protectors” that surrounded Niroomand – former UH-V president Tim Hudson and former UH-V provost Suzanne LaBrecque – melted away from one controversy or another like butter on a hot skillet. While AD at USM, many referred to Niroomand as Doty’s “attack dog.” Having learned from that experience, surely Niroomand now has his own pack of “attack dogs” at UH-V. From prior reports, we know that assistant professor of management, [Ron Salazar](#), is willing to play that part when called upon. Surely there are others.

It’s way past time for Khator to send a posse down from Houston to deal with Niroomand and his associates. To deal with Hudson and LaBrecque, while leaving Niroomand in place, is certainly not getting to the root of the problem. Having Niroomand down in Victoria, attacking UH-V b-school faculty – one after another – is a situation that could easily taint Khator’s legacy as System leader.