Special Report

Dr. Niroomand's "Academic Visit" to Irvine An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report examines another "Academic Visit" made by Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. In October of 2005, while the rest of the CoB was struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Niroomand took a trip to Irvine, CA. The details of Niroomand's plans for the trip are below:

	THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	Phone #	Farhang Niroomand (601) 266-4659 farhang.niroomand@		
A STATES		Dept Name	College of Business		
		Permission to Travel Filed			
Title of Meeting:					
Title of Meeting:			UNIVERSITY CL		
Title of Meeting: CEFPI Conference	ce	Submitter	UNIVERSITY CL		

As the next screen shows, after some patchwork by USM officials, Niroomand's meals and lodging for this week-long excursion came to about \$860.00.

						ME.	AL	S AND L	OI	OGING							
Departure Time		AM		PM							Re	turn Time	A	M PI	M.		
Date	29	-Sep-05	3	0-Sep-05		1-Oct-05		2-Oct-05		3-Oct-05		4-Oct-05			100		
Breakfast			\$	8.20	\$	9.00	\$	12.90	\$	9.00	\$	9.50			\$	48.60	4
Lunch	\$	9.20	\$	10.80	\$	8.50			\$	10.00	\$	16.50			\$	55.00	
Dinner	\$	32.00	\$	56:09	\$	25.60	\$	29.00	\$	22.00					S	164.69	şΰ
Lodging	\$	141.90	\$	141.90	\$	108.90	\$	108.90	\$	143.19					\$	644.79	
	1	Vote: for a	ıdd	itional day	5, u	se tabTV	pg	2			14	State 1	Total M	feals & Lodgin	g \$	913:08	8

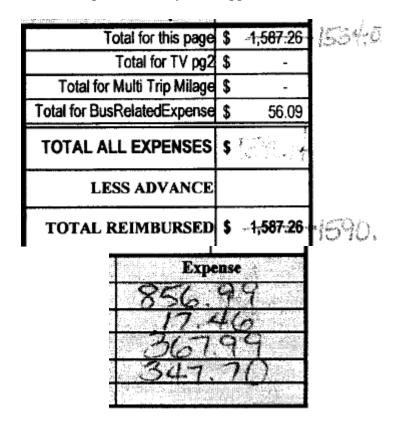
That amount is next added to about \$385.00 in travel expenses, as the following insert details:

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	TRAVEI	BY PERSO	ONAL VEHICLE					
Did y	ou use a University vehicle? Yes (or) N	0				1.		
Date	From		То	Miles	Rate	TOT	ΓAL	
29-Sep-05	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airp	ort	18	V 0.405	S	7.29	
4-Oct-05	PIB airport	Hatiesbu	urg, MS	18	0.405	\$	7.29	• Y
lote: for more mil	age, use either tabMulti Trip Mileage (o	or) TV pg2	Total	Travel By Pe	rsonal Vehicle	\$	14.58	, î
	TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CA	RRIER (Me	ode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bi	ıs, Train, elc)				
Date	From		То		Mode	Ticl	cet Amt	
29-Sep-05	PIB airport		Irvine, CA		Airfare	\$	183.99	
4-Oct-05	Irvine, CA		PIB airport- Hattiesbu	irg, MS	Airfare	\$	184.00	
lote: for additiona	l Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2		Tot	al Travel By	Public Carrier	5	367.99	

Add to the growing total more than \$300.00 (approx.) in incidentals, as shown below, and you have a grand total of \$1,590.00 in expenses.

Item	Date	Place V	Vhere Expenses Were Incurred		Amount
Registration Fees			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Banquet Fee					
Tips (baggage handling)	9/29 - 10/4	Irvine, CA		\$	11.00
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine					
Parking/Tolls	9/29 - 10/4	Irvine, CA		\$	43.00
Car Rental Gas		Irvine, CA rental	211.91; fuel 26.00	\$	237.61
ADVANCE RECEIVED? Yes (or) No		Total Other Expense	es S	291.61
ADDITIONAL REO	JIRED ATTACH	IMENTS:	Total for this pa	ge \$	-1,587.26
			Total for TV p	g2 \$	-
			Total for Multi Trip Mila	ge \$	-
BUSINESS RELA	TED EXPENSE FO	ORM	Total for BusRelatedExper	se \$	56.09

That grand total, and the pots of money that supported it, are shown below:

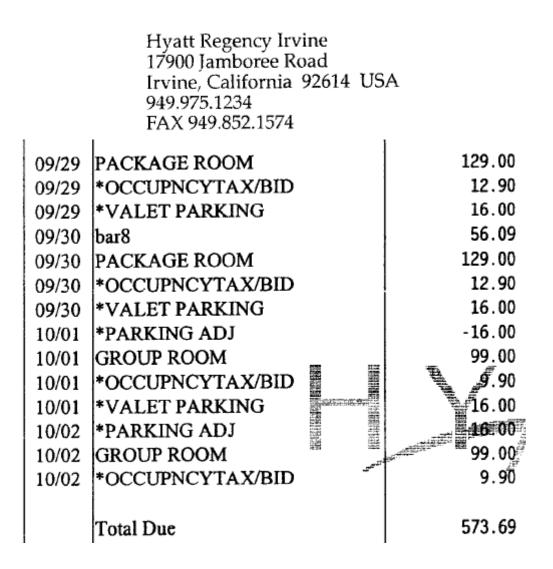


The \$56.09 entry that you see above represents the cost of a "business dinner" that Niroomand was able to have with a "colleague" (see below).

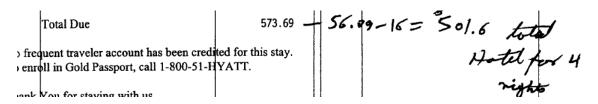
	original itemized receipts to thi	s form, <i>then attach this form to the TRAVEL V</i>	OUCHER.	Names of individuals involv
	original itemized receipts to thi		OUCHĒR.	
his form	must be completed when busin	ness entertainment expense has been incurred	during travel f	or the University.
ALCEN .	MISSI		Dept Name	College of Business
	BUSINESS RE	ELATED EXPENSE FORM	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu
		Y OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Phone #	(601) 266-4659
STORE OF			Name	Farhang Niroomand
	Contraction of the second s		Date	7-Oct-05

Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of individuals involved	Amount
09/30/05	Irvine, CA conference	Business dinner with colleague	Dr. Smith and Mr. Guider	\$ 56.09

The screens below show all of the amenities that come with a visit to Orange County in California.



Included in Niroomand's total is what appears to be a \$56.09 bar tab on 9/30, though the insert below seems to indicate that Niroomand did not seek reimbursement for the bar tab nor the \$16.00 in "*PARKING ADJ" included in the bill.



That would, however, still leave the \$48.00 in Valet Parking.

The more-than-\$200 rental car expense on Niroomand's **Employee Travel Voucher** seems suspicious. Other paperwork indicates that Niroomand visited Santa Ana, CA, for at least one night (see below).



Thus, this trip appears to have been a complete tour of one of the wealthiest pockets of the United States. The details of Niroomand's lodging in Santa Ana are provided below:

DATE	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
10/03/05	1262051	GUEST ROOM	\$129.00
10/03/05	1262051	CITY OCCUPANCY TAX	\$14.19
		WILL BE SETTLED TO DS *********9560	\$143.19
		EXPENSE REPORT SUMMARY	
		10/03/05 STAY TOTAL	
ROOM & TAX		\$143.19 \$143.19	
DAILY TO	TAL	\$143.19 \$143.19	

This is another example of what breaks the back of a Tier IV institution. The amount of time Niroomand spends away from his duties in Hattiesburg is also becoming an increasing concern as more and more of these reports are surfacing. A previous exhibit has tracked Niroomand's time away from USM. That reports should be updated as soon as possible.