


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:

 <p style="text-align: center;">THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</p>	Name	Farhang Niroomand
	Phone #	(601) 266-4659
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@
	Dept Name	College of Business
Title of Meeting:	Permission to Travel Filed	
CEFPI Conference	UNIVERSITY CL	
	Submitter	Christy Daugh
Location and Purpose of trip:	Irvine, CA Academic visit attending workshop on Global Business	Accompanied By:

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.

MEALS AND LODGING								
Departure Time	AM	PM				Return Time	AM	PM
Date	29-Sep-05	30-Sep-05	1-Oct-05	2-Oct-05	3-Oct-05	4-Oct-05		
Breakfast		\$ 8.20	\$ 9.00	\$ 12.90	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.50		\$ 48.60
Lunch	\$ 9.20	\$ 10.80	\$ 8.50		\$ 10.00	\$ 16.50		\$ 55.00
Dinner	\$ 32.00	\$ 36.09	\$ 25.60	\$ 29.00	\$ 22.00			\$ 164.69
Lodging	\$ 141.90	\$ 141.90	\$ 108.90	\$ 108.90	\$ 143.19			\$ 644.79
<i>Note: for additional days, use tab TV pg2</i>								Total Meals & Lodging \$ 913.88

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

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE						
Did you use a University vehicle? Yes (or) No						
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL	
29-Sep-05	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airport	18	40 0.405	\$ 7.29	
4-Oct-05	PIB airport	Hattiesburg, MS	18	0.405	\$ 7.29	
<i>Note: for more milage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) TV pg2</i>					Total Travel By Personal Vehicle	\$ 14.58
TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)						
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt		
29-Sep-05	PIB airport	Irvine, CA	Airfare	\$ 183.99		
4-Oct-05	Irvine, CA	PIB airport- Hattiesburg, MS	Airfare	\$ 184.00		
<i>Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2</i>					Total Travel By Public Carrier	\$ 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.


OTHER EXPENSES (For additional other expenses, use tab TV pg2)			
Item	Date	Place Where 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 Expenses \$ 291.61
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:			Total for this page \$ -1,587.26
BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM			Total for TV pg2 \$ -
			Total for Multi Trip Milage \$ -
			Total for BusRelatedExpense \$ 56.09

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

Total for this page	\$ -1,587.26	1534.0
Total for TV pg2	\$ -	
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$ -	
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ 56.09	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 1534.0	
LESS ADVANCE		
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ -1,587.26	1590.

Expense
856.99
17.46
367.99
347.70

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).

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS RELATED EXPENSE FORM	Date	7-Oct-05
	Name	Farhang Niroomand
	Phone #	(601) 266-4659
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu
	Dept Name	College of Business

This form must be completed when business entertainment expense has been incurred during travel for the University. Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.

Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Business Purpose of Activity	Names of Individuals Involved
09/30/05	Irvine, CA conference	Business dinner with colleague	Dr. Smith and Mr. Guider

Attach all original itemized receipts to this form, then attach this form to the TRAVEL VOUCHER.

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.

Hyatt Regency Irvine
17900 Jamboree Road
Irvine, California 92614 USA
949.975.1234
FAX 949.852.1574

09/29	PACKAGE ROOM	129.00
09/29	*OCCUPNCYTAX/BID	12.90
09/29	*VALET PARKING	16.00
09/30	bar8	56.09
09/30	PACKAGE ROOM	129.00
09/30	*OCCUPNCYTAX/BID	12.90
09/30	*VALET PARKING	16.00
10/01	*PARKING ADJ	-16.00
10/01	GROUP ROOM	99.00
10/01	*OCCUPNCYTAX/BID	9.90
10/01	*VALET PARKING	16.00
10/02	*PARKING ADJ	16.00
10/02	GROUP ROOM	99.00
10/02	*OCCUPNCYTAX/BID	9.90
Total Due		573.69

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.

Total Due	573.69	56.09 - 16 = 501.6 total
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frequent traveler account has been credited for this stay.
 enroll in Gold Passport, call 1-800-51-HYATT.
 Thank you for staying with us

Hotel for 4 nights

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).

Name & Address	 DOUBLETREE CLUB HOTEL <small>ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT</small>	7 Hutton Centre Drive Santa Ana, CA 92707 Phone (714) 751-2400 Fax (714) 662-7935 Reservations www.dcluborango.com or 1-800-222-TREE
NIROOMAND, FARHANG 21 NORTH PT HATTIESBURG, MS 39402 US	Room 413/BQQN Arrival Date 10/03/05 1:04PM Departure Date 10/04/05 Adult/Child 1/0 Room Rate \$129.00	

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 TOTAL		\$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.