


## Special Report

### The Cost to the CoB of Barry Babin's '06 "Invitations" An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report examines some of the recent "invitations" to present research that Barry Babin has received. The usual understanding is that the inviting organization would pay the freight, but as usmpride.com investigators have discovered, that is rarely the case with invitations involving CoB faculty.

This report begins with an "Invited Presentation" Babin filed for regarding a February of 2006 trip to the AMA Winter Educators' Conference in Ft. Lauderdale. The invitation was extended to Babin by Thomson Publishing, the publisher of one of Babin's textbooks (see other reports at usmpride.com for details of the Babins' textbook operation). The information on this particular "invite" is presented below:

 <p><b>THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</b></p>	<b>Date:</b> 5-Jun-06	<b>Emp</b>
	<b>Name:</b> Barry J. Babin	
	<b>Phone #:</b> 266-4629	<b>Dept B</b>
	<b>E-Mail:</b> barry.babin@usm.edu	
	<b>Dept Name:</b> Management and Marketing	
<b>Title of Meeting:</b> American Marketing Association Winter Educator's Conference/Thomson Publishing		<b>Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, attach )</b> <b>UNIVERSITY CLASSIFICAT</b>
		<b>Submitter:</b> Janice Prescott 266-4
<b>Location and Purpose of trip:</b> Ft. Lauderdale, FL/Tampa, FL Invited presentation (Thomson) and Attend meeting	<b>Accompanied By:</b>	


Unlike some of the other "invitations" received by CoB faculty that have been discussed in the "Invitation or Invoice" series here at usmpride.com, this one cost the CoB relatively little (see below).

<b>ADVANCE RECEIVED? Yes (or) No</b>			<b>Total Other Expenses</b> \$ -
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:</b>			<b>Total for this page</b> \$ 62.30
			<b>Total for TV pg2</b> \$ -
			<b>Total for Multi Trip Mileage</b> \$ -
			<b>Total for BusRelatedExpense</b> \$ -
<b>By signing, I confirm that the above amounts claimed for travel expenses are true and accurate.</b>			<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSES</b> \$ 62.30
<b>Employee Signature</b>	<b>Chair or Next Higher Expenditure Authority</b>	<b>Contracts &amp; Grants (If restricted account)</b>	<b>LESS ADVANCE</b>
<i>Print Signature Name below</i> Barry Babin	<i>Print Signature Name below</i> Farhang Niroomand	<i>Print Signature Name below</i>	<b>TOTAL REIMBURSED</b> \$ 62.30
<i>Sign &amp; Date here</i> 6/6/06	<i>Sign &amp; Date here</i> 6/5/06	<i>Sign &amp; Date here</i>	<b>MAX REIMBURSED</b> 62.30 200.00

It is worth noting, however, that Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand was willing to provide \$200 for Babin's trip if the expenses had risen to that level. It should also be

noted that this trip is different from past ones in that the “invitation” was made by a textbook publisher, and not an academic institution. Not only was the invitation from a textbook publisher, Thomson Learning publishes one of Babin’s textbooks – a book that Babin receives royalties for, thus representing a questionable expense from the University’s perspective.

The second “invitation” covered in this report was reported on a June of 2006 **Employee Travel Voucher**. Some of the preliminary details are reported below:

 <p><b>THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</b></p>	<b>Date</b>	5-Jun-06
	<b>Name</b>	Barry J. Babin
	<b>Phone #</b>	601-266-4629
	<b>E-Mail</b>	barry.babin@usm.edu
	<b>Dept Name</b>	Management and Marketing
<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	<b>Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, )</b>	
Association for French Marketing	<b>UNIVERSITY CLASSIFIED</b>	
	<b>Submitter</b>	Janice Prescott
<b>Location and Purpose of trip:</b>	<b>Accompanied By:</b>	
Nantes, France Invited Speaker		

The insert above indicates that Babin was invited to speak to the Association for French Marketing in Nantes, France. The details of this trip are interesting. Note that the insert below suggests that the AFM paid for Babin to reach the shores of Europe, but he relied on Mississippi taxpayers to complete the journey:

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE					
Did you use a University vehicle? Yes (or) No					
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL
6-May-06	Hattiesburg, MS	Baton Rouge, LA	300	0.445	\$ 133.50
15-May-06		(round trip)		0.445	\$ -
Note: for more mileage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) TV pg2					<b>Total Travel By Personal Vehicle \$ 133.50</b>
TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)					
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt	
6-May-06	Paris	Nantes/London	airfare	\$ 380.10	
	(AMS pd airfare to Europe - this is remainder)				
Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2					<b>Total Travel By Public Carrier \$ 380.10</b>


The completion of the journey cost the CoB a little over \$380. The taxi/limousine expenses associated with Babin’s invitation to Nantes are provided below:

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)			
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	13-May-06	London	\$ 39.00
Parking/Tolls			
Car Rental Gas			

These expenses occurred in London, instead of Nantes. This “invitation” to Babin from the AFM consumed more than \$550 of the CoB’s budget. Again, Associate Dean Niroomand was prepared to pay more. In this case he was prepared to devote as much as \$1,000 to support the AFM’s “invitation” (see below):

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:			Total for this page	\$ 552.60
By signing, I confirm that the above amounts claimed for travel expenses are true and accurate.			Total for TV pg2	\$ -
			Total for Multi Trip Mileage	\$ -
			Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ -
			<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 552.60</b>
Employee Signature			LESS ADVANCE	
Chair or Next Higher Expenditure Authority	Contracts & Grants (if restricted account)		TOTAL REIMBURSED	
Print Signature Name below <i>Barry Babin</i>	Print Signature Name below <i>Farhana Niroomand</i>	Print Signature Name below	\$ 552.60	
Sign & Date here <i>[Signature]</i> 6/6/06	Sign & Date here <i>[Signature]</i> 6/8/06	Sign & Date here	MAX REIMBURSED	
			552.60 <del>7,000.00</del>	

A third “invitation” received by Babin involved a trip to Minneapolis in March of 2006. This “invitation” was made by the National Conference on Sales Management, as described below:

 <p><b>THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI</b> <b>EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</b></p>	Date	10-Apr-06
	Name	Barry J. Babin
	Phone #	601-266-4629
	E-Mail	barry.babin@usm.edu
	Dept Name	Management and Marketing
Title of Meeting:	Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, UNIVERSITY CLASSIFIED)	
National Conference on Sales Management	Submitter	Janice Prescott
Location and Purpose of trip:	Accompanied By:	
Minneapolis, MN Invited presentation		

Unlike the previous two, this “invitation” included meals and lodging expenses, which totaled almost \$350, as the screen below points out:

MEALS AND LODGING									
Date	2-Mar-06	3-Mar-06							
Breakfast			\$ 10.00						\$ 10.00
Lunch									\$ -
Dinner	\$ 41.00	\$ 41.00							\$ 82.00
Lodging	\$ <del>171.98</del>	\$ <del>139.65</del>						235.00	\$ <del>311.63</del>
Note: for additional days, use tabTV pg2								Total Meals & Lodging	\$ 403.63
TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE									

347

Another \$380 was required to cover Babin’s travel (personal vehicle and public carrier), as the insert below indicates:

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE					
Did you use a University vehicle? Yes (or) No					
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL
2-Mar-06	Hattiesburg, MS	Gulfport, MS	140	0.445	\$ 62.30
				N/A	\$ -
Note: for more milage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage(or) TV pg2					<b>Total Travel By Personal Vehicle \$ 62.30</b>
TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)					
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt	
2-Mar-06	Gulfport, MS	Minneapolis, MN	airfare	\$ 318.69	
4-Mar-06	Minneapolis, MN	Gulfport, MS			
Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2					<b>Total Travel By Public Carrier \$ 318.69</b>

In this case, like the previous one, the “inviting” organization did not even cover local transportation (taxi, etc.) for Babin, adding another \$54 to USM’s tab (see below):

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)			
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	4-Mar-06	Minneapolis	\$ 40.00
Parking/Tolls	3/2-3/4	Gulfport, MS	\$ 14.00
Car Rental Gas		Interstate	23.90
ADVANCE RECEIVED? Yes (or) No			<b>Total Other Expenses \$ 54.00</b>

The total in this instance was just over \$830, though Niroomand funded only \$800 of the total. Babin was able to tap four different pots of money to fund this trip (see below).

Expense
347.40
62.30
318.69
71.61

In all, these three “invitations” received by Babin during Spring semester of 2006 consumed about \$1,400. Thus, Babin used the travel budgets of 1 to 2 CoB assistant professors just to cover the left over amounts associated with his “invited” activities.