Special Report

Niroomand & Doty "Recruiting" in Vegas

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report examines some documents turned over to usmpride.com that indicate that CoB Dean Harold Doty and CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand traveled to Las Vegas in June of 2006 in order to "recruit new Tourism Management faculty." After the Spring of 2006, the CoB's Tourism Management Department was devastated by faculty departures. These included Johye Hwang (Missouri), Joe Hutchinson (Central Florida), and Ernie Wilson (retirement). The only new hire made by the Department for the 2006-07 academic year has been Evelyn Green. We would assume that Green was hired based on an interview with Doty and Niroomand in Las Vegas if not for the fact that Evelyn Green is known to many in the CoB from her work with other branches of USM in the past (i.e., Green was an internal hire).

The insert below points out that Doty and Niroomand made the trip to Las Vegas in order to recruit for the Tourism Management Department:

		Date	7-JU
STREET, STOR	THE UNIVERSITY OF	Name	Farhang Niroomand
	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Phone #	601.266.5028
	EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@
A STATES		Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office
		Perm	ission to Travel Filed
Title of Meeting:	ational Hospitality & Convention		UNIVERSITY C
Title of Meeting: Las Vegas Intern Summit	ational Hospitality & Convention	Submitter	M. P. Hards

It's interesting to note that Doty and Niroomand do not yet trust Cherylynn Becker, Chair/Associate Professor of Tourism Management, to handle a Tourism Management hiring process. There is no paperwork at usmpride.com to indicate that Becker made the trip to Las Vegas in order to assist Doty and Niroomand, although she may have attended in order to assist them.

Niroomand's lodging/meals expenses are shown below:

						ME	AL	S AND L	00	GING			
Date		3-Jun-06		4-Jun-06		5-Jun-06		6-Jun-06		7-Jun-06			
Breakfast	- 15	6.00	\$	6.00	\$	6.00	\$	6.00	\$	15.00			\$ 39.00
		15.00	ŝ	15.00		15.00	\$	15.00	\$	21.00			\$ 81.00
Lunch	- e	20.00	ŝ	20.00	<u> </u>	20.00	\$	20.00					\$ 80.00
Dinner		250.69	ŧ	130.79	<u> </u>	98.09	\$	87.29					\$ 566.86
Lodging	Þ		Ľ,		· ·	use tabTV					100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Total Meals & Lodging	\$ 766.86

These expenses total \$766.86 for the June 3-7, 2006, period alone. We offer no explanation as to why the lodging expense began at \$250.69/night and declined all the way to \$87.29/night. The totals for Niroomand in the "Travel by Personal Vehicle" and "Travel by Public Carrier" categories are shown below:

Did v	ou use a University vehicle? No			-			
Date	From		То	Miles	Rate	TOT	
	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airpo	rt	18	0.445	\$	8.0
3-Jun-06 7-Jun-06	PIB airport	Hattiesbu	the second s	18	0.445	\$	8.01
	lage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) T	V pg2			ional Vehicle	S	16.0
	TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARR	IER (MOC	To	Train, cicy	Mode	Tick	et Amt
Date	PIB airport		Las Vegas, NV		Airfare	\$	291.2
3- lun-06					Airfare	S	291.2
3-Jun-06 7-Jun-06	Las Vegas, NV		PIB airport		ublic Carrier	Ļ,	582.4

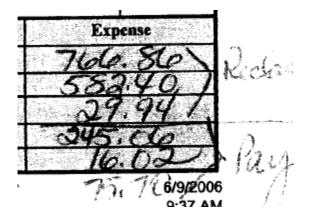
The expenses in these two categories above total about \$600.00, with \$582.40 of that coming in the way of airfare to Las Vegas. As the insert below shows, Niroomand's "Other Expenses" for this trip are substantial:

Item	Date	For additional other expenses, use tab TV pg2) Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	A	mount
Registration Fees	23-May-06	Las Vegas, NV	\$	275.00
Banquet Fee			s	16.00
Tips (baggage handling)	6/3-6/7	Las Vegas, NV	s	67.20
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	6/3-6/7	Las Vegas, NV	۴,	
Parking/Tolls				
Car Rental Gas		Total Other Expenses	-	358.20

The total for Niroomand's "recruiting trip" to Las Vegas, which came up empty, total more than \$1,700.00 (see below).

Stavin			
Total for this page	\$	1,723.48	
Total for TV pg2	\$	-	
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$	-	
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$	-	
			L
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$	-1,7 23.48	1715.64
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES LESS ADVANCE	-	1,723.48 1,379.20	115 8

He was fully reimbursed; his reimbursement required no fewer than six of his pots of money (see below).



The screens above indicate that Niroomand took a sizable "advance" to Las Vegas. A series of e-mails between Melia Hartsfield (CoB Admin Asst) and Rayonne Ellis provide more information about the advances that Niroomand and Doty requested for their trip to Las Vegas in early June of 2006. A portion of that e-mail series is presented below:

Rayonne Ellis

From: Hartsfield [hartsfield@cba.usm.edu]

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2006 9:25 AM

To: 'rayonne.ellis@usm.edu'

Subject: RE: Travel Advances

Harold Doty - Las Vegas, NV - \$1,130.40 (max. amount) Harold Doty - Beijing, China - \$3,517.60 (max. amount)

Farhang Niroomand - Las Vegas, NV - \$1,379.20 (max. amount)

Thank you very much for your help. Have a great day.

Melía

Niroomand received a \$1,379.20 advance, while Doty was given a \$1,130.40 advance. It's also interesting to note that Doty got a \$3,517.60 advance for his Summer of 2006 trip to Beijing.

This kind of travel spending represents Niroomand's legacy as Associate Dean.