


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:

 THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	DATE	7-JU
	Name	Farhang Niroomand
	Phone #	601.266.5028
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office
Title of Meeting: Las Vegas International Hospitality & Convention Summit		Permission to Travel Filed UNIVERSITY C.
Location and Purpose of trip: Las Vegas, NV To attend summit and recruit new Tourism Management faculty.		Submitter Melia Harts
		Accompanied By: Harold Doty

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:

MEALS AND LODGING									
Date	3-Jun-06	4-Jun-06	5-Jun-06	6-Jun-06	7-Jun-06				
Breakfast	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 15.00				\$ 39.00
Lunch	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 21.00				\$ 81.00
Dinner	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00					\$ 80.00
Lodging	\$ 250.69	\$ 130.79	\$ 98.09	\$ 87.29					\$ 566.86
Note: for additional days, use tab TV pg2									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:

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE					
Did you use a University vehicle? No					
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL
3-Jun-06	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airport	18	0.445	\$ 8.01
7-Jun-06	PIB airport	Hattiesburg, MS	18	0.445	\$ 8.01
Note: for more mileage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) TV pg2					Total Travel By Personal Vehicle \$ 16.02
TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)					
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt	
3-Jun-06	PIB airport	Las Vegas, NV	Airfare	\$ 291.20	
7-Jun-06	Las Vegas, NV	PIB airport	Airfare	\$ 291.20	
Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2					Total Travel By Public Carrier \$ 582.40

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:

OTHER EXPENSES (For additional other expenses, use tab TV pg2)			
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount
Registration Fees	23-May-06	Las Vegas, NV	\$ 275.00
Banquet Fee			
Tips (baggage handling)	6/3-6/7	Las Vegas, NV	\$ 16.00
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	6/3-6/7	Las Vegas, NV	\$ 67.20
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).

Total for this page	\$ 1,723.48
Total for TV pg2	\$ -
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$ -
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ -
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 1,723.48
LESS ADVANCE	\$ 1,379.20
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ 344.28

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

Expense	
766.86	✓
582.40	
29.94	
245.06	✓
16.02	
75.70	

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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.

Melia

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.