## Special Report

## Niroomand Drops it like it's Hot

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report examines the details of CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand's trip to Berlin (in March of 2006) to attend the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual International Atlantic Economic Society Conference. The screen below shows the top portion of Niroomand's **Employee Travel Voucher** regarding this trip:

	THE UNIVERSITY OF	Name	Farhang Niroomand					
	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Phone #	601.266.5028	Dept B				
A	EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	E-Mail	sm.edu					
ALCONTINUE -		Dept Name	Dean's Office					
Title of Meeting:		Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, attach						
Edat Internationa		UNIVERSITY CLASSIFICATI						
o ist international	Atlantic Economic Conference	Submitter	Melia Hartsfie	ld 601.266.5				

At \$250/night, the lodging expenses for this trip totaled \$1,250. With meals added, the lodging/meals costs alone totaled almost \$2,000 (see below).

		41.13				MEA	AL	S AND L	OĽ	GING		122.05		+2.		
Departure Time		AM		PM						172.40	Re	turn Time		AM	PM	
Date	1	4-Mar-06	1	5-Mar-06	1	6-Mar-06	1	7-Mar-06	1	8-Mar-06	1	9-Mar-06	2	0-Mar-06		
Breakfast			\$	11.88	\$	23.00	\$	23.00	\$	23.00	\$	23.00	\$	23.00		\$ 126.8
Lunch	\$	23.07	\$	16.38	\$	19.00	\$	23.75	\$	29.00	\$	38.00	\$	19.00		\$ 168.2
Dinner	\$	18.00	\$	34.00	\$	81.00	\$	78.25•	\$	70.60	\$	61.25				\$ 343.1
Lodging			\$	250.00	\$	250.00	\$	250.00	\$	250.00	\$	250.00				\$ 1,250.0
		Note: for a	ıdd	itional day	s, u	se tabTV	pg2	2				. Artik	1.20	Fotal Meal	s & Lodging	\$ 1,888.1

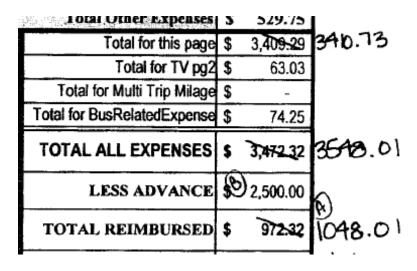
The travel expenses, by personal vehicle and public carrier, came to almost \$1,000, as shown below:

Did y	ou use a University vehicle? No						
Date	From		То	Miles	Rate	TOT	AL
14-Mar-06	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airp	ort	18	445 0 405	S	229
20-Mar-06	PIB airport	Hattiesb	urg, MS	18	.445 0.405	s	7.29
lote: for more mil	age, use either tabMulti Trip Mileage			And a second second second	rsonal Vehicle	S	14-58
Date	TRAVEL BY PUBLIC C.	ARRIER (MO	ode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bu	s, Train, etc)	Mode	Tiale	et Amt
14-Mar-06	PIB airport	Berlin, Germany		Airfare	<u> </u>	488.39	
20-Mar-06	Berlin, Germany		PIB airport		Airfare	<u> </u>	488.39
	l Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2						

Registration fees, tips, and taxi services also killed off most of the annual travel of one CoB assistant professor, as the figures below indicate:

Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	A	mount
Registration Fees	14-Mar-06	Berlin, Germany	\$	445.00
Banquet Fee			-	
Tips (baggage handling)	3/14-3/20	Berlin, Germany	\$	26.00
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	3/14-3/20	Berlin, Germany	\$	58.75
Parking/Tolls				
Car Rental Gas				
ADVANCE RECEIVED? (Yes) (or) No		Total Other Expenses	s	529.75

These "Other Expenses" amounts above, when combined, would finance a complete conference trip to New Orleans for a CoB professor. What about the total cost of this trip to Germany? The screen below answers that question:



How does **\$3,548.01** sound? Why did Niroomand attend this meeting? His **Permission to Travel** form provides some answers. As the screen below points out, Niroomand wanted to "Attend [the] Conference."

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Employee Name	Farhang Niroomand	Emp			
University Classification (circle one)	Faculty				
Traveler's E-Mail Address	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu	Department 1			
Phone #	601.266.5028	Department I			
Dates of Travel	Beginning Date	Ending Date			
(include traveling dates)	14-Mar-06	19-Mar-06			
Title of Meeting (Do not Abbreviate)	e 61st International Atlantic Economic Conference				
Location of Meeting	Berlin, Germany				
Purpose of Travel	Attend conference				

Is that a sufficient reason? Perhaps even Niroomand didn't even think so. Consider the possibility that Niroomand knew he needed further justification to attend this Conference in Berlin. He provided such on his international travel authorization form (see below).

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION	
CHECK ALL APPLICABLE TRAVEL ITEMS REQUESTED HEREIN: IN-STATE OUT-OF-STATE OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVAN	JAN 09 2005 Office of WRCHASING AND TRAVEL
(See page 2 for instructions)	
EMP. NAME: Farhang Niroomand EMP. TITLE: Assoc. Dean & Prof. SS#:	
AGENCY: DIVISION / BUDGET:	
DATE (s) OF MEETING / TRIP: March 14-19, 2006 DESTINATION (s):	Sermany
TITLE OF MEETING: 61st International Atlantic Economic Conference	
PURPOSE/BENEFITS OF TRIP/MEETING: To present paper, to chair a session several papers. Faculty development and recruiting students for EL	
at Southern Miss.	

Here is what he listed there:

- Present paper
- chair a session
- discuss several papers
- Faculty development
- recruiting students for ELI
- recruiting students for the MBA [Program] at Southern Miss

The last two of these seem totally bogus. The fourth one, "faculty development," is comical. It seems to us that listing the final three items calls into question the entire trip.

What is Niroomand's job? As these types of reports continue to mount, Mississippi taxpayers deserve an answer to this question. It is our investigators' understanding that the job of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs is a position with responsibilities for things going on inside of the College. Niroomand spends so much time outside of JGH that it's hard to keep up with. CoB Dean Harold Doty has now been signatory on several of Niroomand's travel vouchers and permission to travel forms. Doty is now a big part of this situation.