


Special Report

Remember Niroomand's Trip to the Alamo!

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report analyzes the details of CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand's April of 2006 trip to San Antonio for the Southwestern Social Science Association meeting. Niroomand's plans for that trip are detailed in the screen below:

 <p style="text-align: center;">THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</p>	Name	Farhang Niroomand	
	Phone #	601.266.5028	Dep
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu	
	Dept Name	CoB - Dean's Office	
Title of Meeting:	Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, att UNIVERSITY CLASSIFIC		
Southwestern Social Science Association	Submitter	Melia Hartsfield	601.2
Location and Purpose of trip:	San Antonio, Texas To present paper, chair session, and discuss several papers		Accompanied By:

Notice the familiar line "To present paper, chair session, and discuss several papers." This seems like a cut-and-paste job from other **Employee Travel Voucher** forms that Niroomand has completed on other occasions.

The details on lodging/meals for this excursion are very interesting, as the screen below shows:

MEALS AND LODGING								
Date	13-Apr-06	14-Apr-06	15-Apr-06	16-Apr-06				
Breakfast		\$ 5.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00			\$ 15.00	
Lunch	\$ 14.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 30.92			\$ 89.92	
Dinner	\$ 28.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 12.00			\$ 140.69	
Lodging	\$ 127.26	\$ 127.26	\$ 127.26				381.78	
<i>Note: for additional days, use tabTV pg2</i>							Total Meals & Lodging	\$ 627.39

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE

The \$100 dinner on 14 April 2006 is intriguing. It appears as though the officials in USM's financial affairs offices moved that amount to another form. Keep in mind that, as pointed out in a previous Special Report, Niroomand often has lunch/dinner with "colleagues," and that these expenses are moved from travel voucher forms and placed onto business expense forms.

Travel costs added another \$400+ to this San Antonio trip, as the table below points out:

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE					
Did you use a University vehicle? No					
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL
13-Apr-06	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB airport	18	445.0485	\$ 8.73
16-Apr-06	PIB airport	Hattiesburg, MS	18	445.0485	\$ 8.73
Total Travel By Personal Vehicle					\$ 17.46
Note: for more mileage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) TV pg2					
TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)					
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt	
13-Apr-06	PIB airport	San Antonio, TX	Airfare	\$ 198.05	
16-Apr-06	San Antonio, TX	PIB airport	Airfare	\$ 198.04	
Total Travel By Public Carrier					\$ 396.09
Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2					

8.01
8.01
16.02

The "Other Expenses" column associated with this 2006 trip totaled more than \$100 as well, as the insert below shows:

OTHER EXPENSES (For additional other expenses, use tab TV pg2)			
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount
Registration Fees	13-Apr-06	San Antonio, TX	\$ 30.00
Banquet Fee			
Tips (baggage handling)			
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	4/13-4/16	San Antonio, TX	\$ 9.00
Parking/Tolls	4/13-4/16	San Antonio, TX	\$ 74.00
Car Rental Gas			
Total Other Expenses			\$ 113.00

What was the total tab for this excursion? The screen below provides the answer:

Total for this page	\$ 1,153.94	1152.50
Total for TV pg2	\$ -	
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$ -	
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ 100.69	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 1,153.94	1152
LESS ADVANCE		
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ 1,153.94	1152.50
MAX REIMBURSED	1,118.00	

As you can see, this trip to San Antonio came to \$1,152.50, and Niroomand was reimbursed \$1,118.00 of that total – a reimbursement rate of 97 percent. Upon examination of the pots of money Niroomand used to finance the trip, we see that his \$100.69 dinner was reimbursed as well (see bottom, in pencil, on insert below).

Expense
492.22
416.02
396.09
30.00
83.00

100.69 4/17/2006 11:20 AM

Once again, CoB Dean Harold Doty is involved, as the signature lines included below indicate:

Employee Signature	Chair or Next Higher Expenditure Authority
<i>Print Signature Name below</i> Farhang Niroomand	<i>Print Signature Name below</i> Harold Doty
<i>Sign & Date here</i> F Niroomand 4/17/06	<i>Sign & Date here</i> H Doty

Doty's involvement in the CoB spending frenzy of Niroomand is becoming more and more apparent, as the most recent installments in the Special Report series suggest.

This is another four-figure trip for Niroomand. His monthly travel budget appears to exceed the annual travel budget for regular line CoB faculty. As more and more paperwork is processed, our investigators will provide a more in-depth examination of some of the reports that have been presented here at usmpride.com.