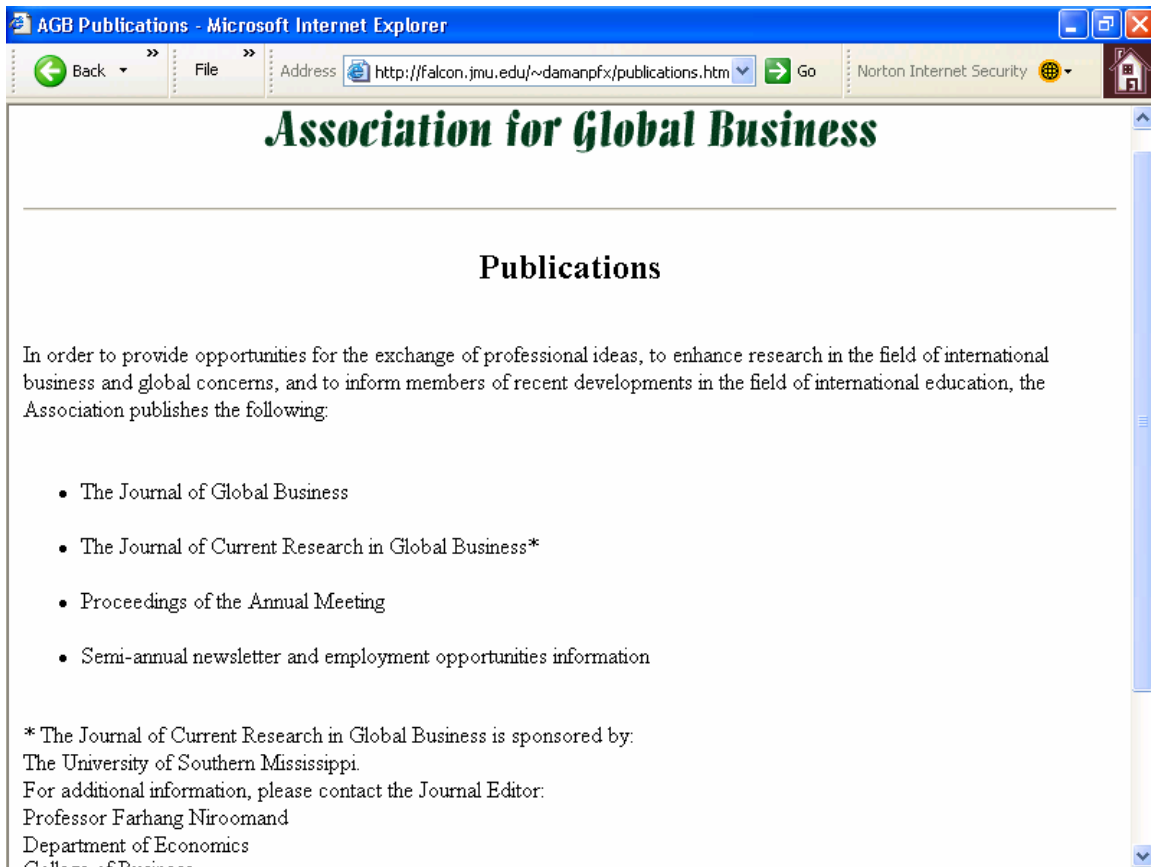


Special Report

How Much does *JCRGB* Sponsorship Cost the CoB? An Investigative Series on the use of the CoB's Budget

The recent “CoBscam . . .” report about the questionable publishing practices of Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand and economics professor Edward Nissan have sparked a lot of interest among usmpride.com readers. This “Special Report” is partially the result of a reader’s tip.

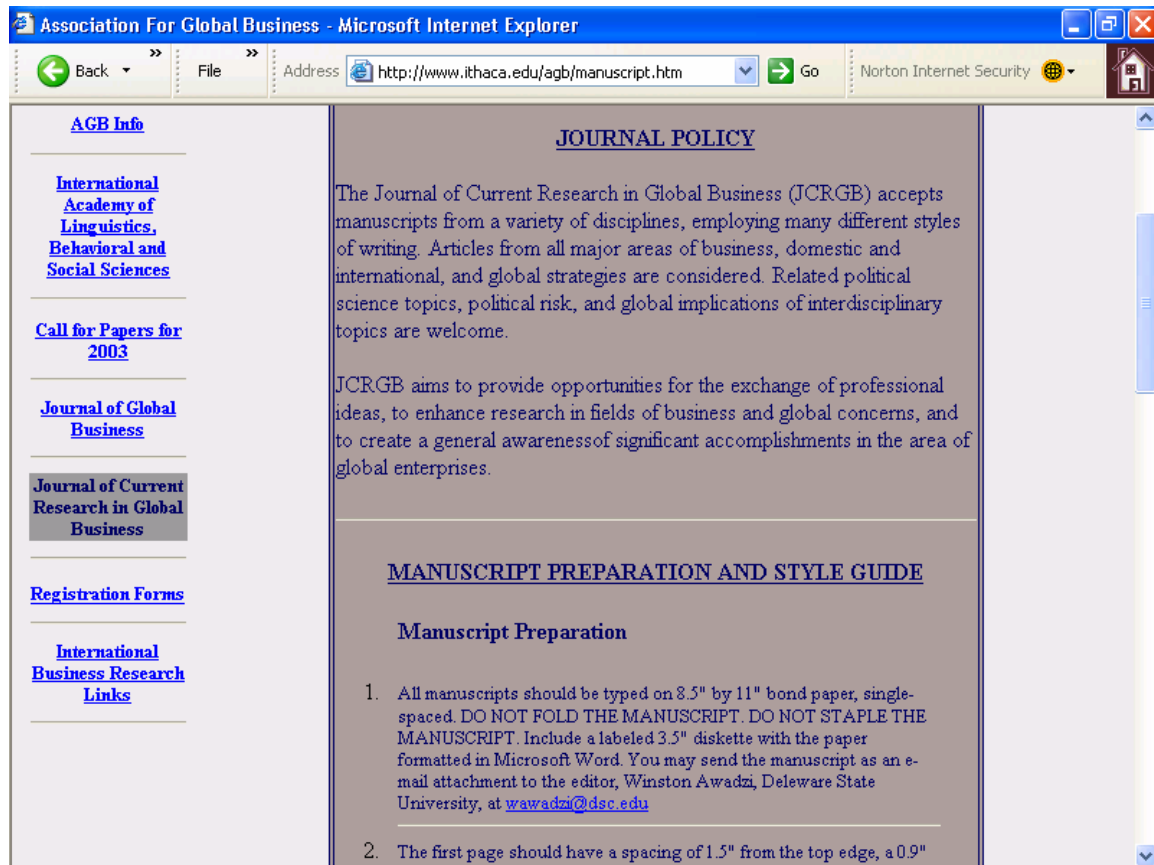
The “CoBscam . . .” report focused heavily on Niroomand’s journal --- *Journal of Current Research in Global Business* (*JCRGB*), published under the auspices of the Association for Global Business (AGB). A recent web search turned up the following page:



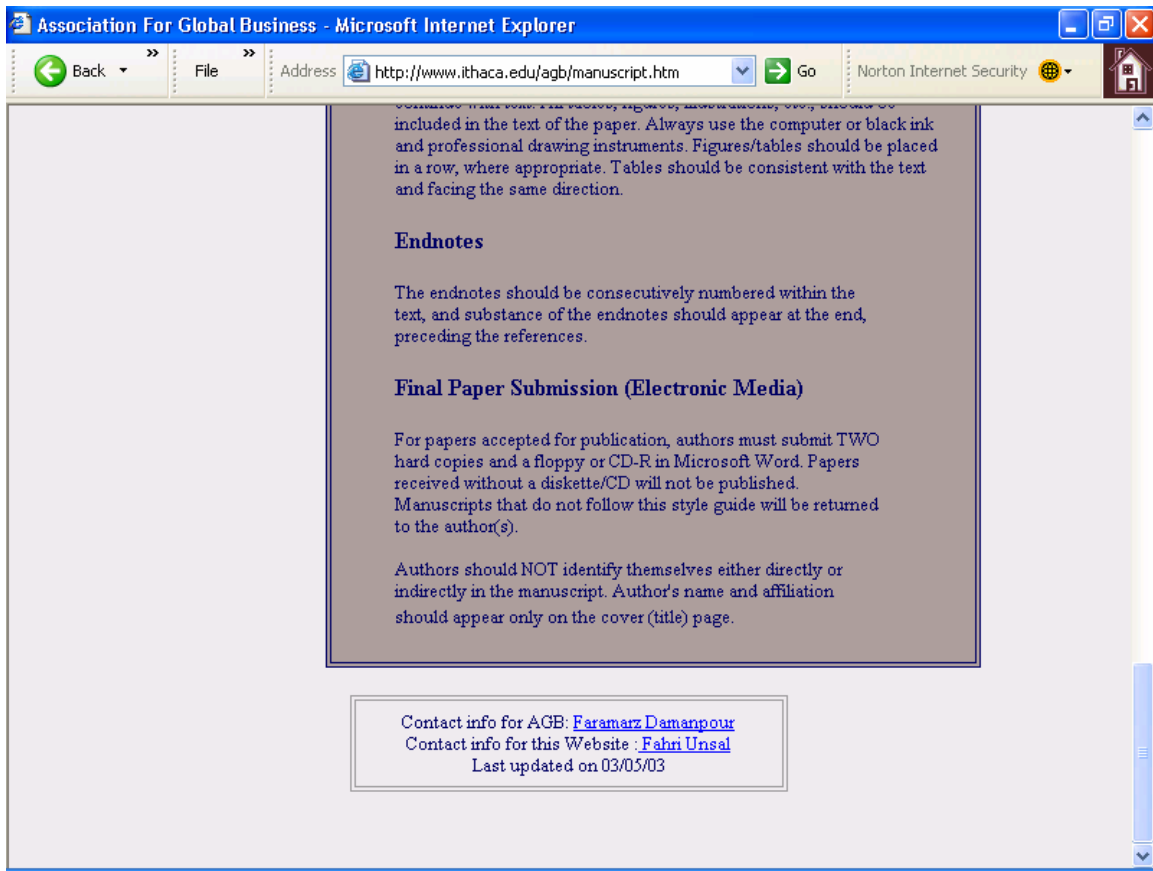
The screen above supports the facts presented in the “CoBscam . . .” report. However, this screen also offers information that goes beyond that earlier report. Notice that the AGB’s webmaster makes a point of noting that Niroomand’s journal, the *JCRGB*, is “sponsored by The University of Southern Mississippi” and **not** by the Association for Global Business.

This suggests that, not only is Niroomand the editor of a journal that he and Nissan are publishing in, and are getting relatively large raises from, it is possibly the case that Niroomand launched the journal himself. What we do know from this screen is that USM is currently funding the production of this journal, whether or not it actually launched it a few short years ago.

The following screen suggests that the *JCRGB* existed before Niroomand became editor.



The screen above points out that Winston Awadzi of Delaware State University was the editor of the *JCRGB* before the CoB's Farhang Niroomand took over the position. According to the website above, Awadzi was the editor at least as late as March of 2003 (see below). The website above also lists Faramarz Damanpour as the contact individual for information about the Association for Global Business, and it names Fahri Unsal as the Webmaster for the AGB (again, at least as late as March of 2003).

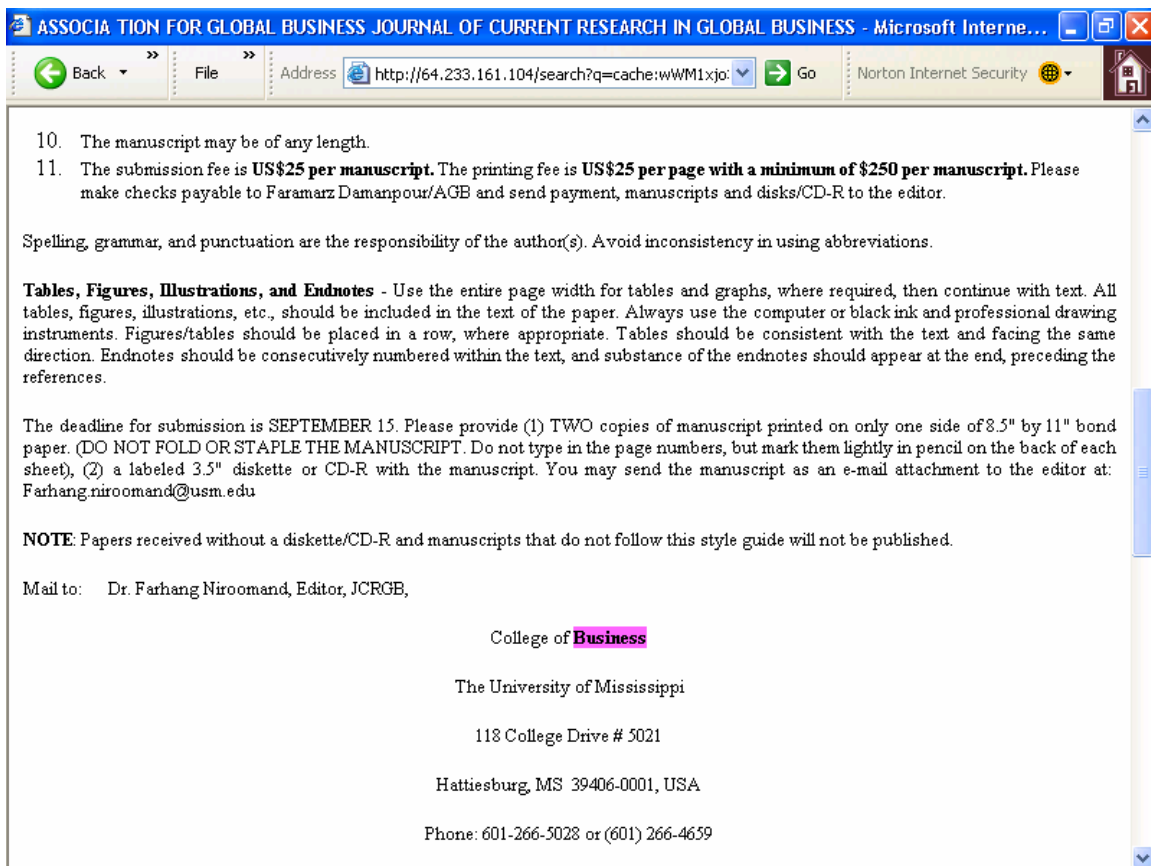


Our next question: How much of the CoB's budget does sponsorship of the *JCRGB* require? That is a big question. There are many line items associated with the costs of producing an academic publication. These include:

- typesetting/design expenses
- printing costs
- packaging expenses
- mailing fees

Of course, there are other costs, such as postage expenses associated with handling submission/reviews correspondence, etc. This sponsorship could easily stretch into the thousands of dollars.

The screen below was taken from a website containing manuscript preparation and submission information with regard to the Fall 2006 issue (Volume 8) and the Winter 2007 issue (Volume 9) of the *JCRGB*.



The screen indicates that there is a \$25 submission fee per manuscript, and a printing of \$25 per page, with a minimum fee of \$250 for publishing each manuscript. One would think that these fees would contribute toward a large portion, if not all, of the operating costs of the *JCRGB*. However, the instructions indicate that checks for these fees are to be made “payable to Faramarz Damanpour/AGB . . .” and sent to the editor (Niroomand). Is Niroomand turning these checks over to Damanpour/AGB? Or, are they used to cover the “sponsorship costs” that are incurred by USM’s College of Business? These questions need answering.

Given the tight financial situation facing higher education in Mississippi, all of this leads to other questions, such as: What is the quality/visibility of this journal?

Our investigators at usmpride.com continue to investigate the quality of the AGB. We have learned that Niroomand holds the prestigious title of “Amigo” within the Association for Global Business, as the following insert indicates:

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

The Amigos of Association for Global Business

Home
International Business Degrees
Frequently Asked Questions
Courses
Faculty
Departmental Research
Middle East Project Supported by the US Department of Education
Conference NEW
Alumni
IB Club
International Business Modeling Lab (IBML)
Pictures



From Left to Right:

Professor **Farhang Niroomand** Dean, University of Southern Mississippi; **Professor Roger Doost**, Clemson University; Professor **Massood Samii**, Southern New Hampshire University (*Riding the donkey all the way to Boston!*); Professor **Nader Asgary**, SUNY College at Genesco; Professor **Hossein Vaaramini**, Elizabethtown College.

Missing in Action!!!! ----President **Faramarz Damanpour** (Maybe attending the APEC summit in Santiago)

Apparently, as the insert above points out, Niroomand has also informed the other “Amigos” of the AGB, as well as the AGB membership at large, that he (Niroomand) is the “Dean” of USM’s College of Business.

Notice that, though “Missing in Action!!!!,” Faramarz Damanpour is both President of the AGB and an “Amigo” of the AGB. Are Damanpour and others, such as Asgary,

Samii, and Vaaramini, also natives of Iran? Is this association --- the AGB --- a vita-building organization for a group of academics with a common bond and who also work at bottom-tier universities?

Future reports will address these and other issues.