

Updated – See Below

Special Report

Back to Tehran in 2005

An Investigative Series on Travel by CoB Faculty

Investigators at usmpride.com have recently learned that CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand made a trip to his home country of Iran in 2005. Much like his earlier trips home, this one was also at the "invitation" of the Central Bank of Iran, and this one also cost USM and Mississippi taxpayers a few thousand dollars.

Name Farhang Niroomand Title Prof & Asso Dean SS

In compliance with Section 25-3-45 Mississippi Code 1972, request is made for authorization to attend the following


The 15th Conf on Monetary & Foreign Exchange Policies

The insert above, taken from Niroomand's **Permission to Travel** form, states that he was to participate in "The 15th Conference on Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policies" which was to occur at the Central Bank of Iran from May 14-19, 2005. The insert below indicates exactly what Niroomand's plans were at the time:

Purpose of convention, association, or meeting (If an advance is needed, but cost of trip will be reimbursed by an outside organization, please explain.)

Present paper and participate in panel discussion

Below, you will find a snapshot of the top part of Niroomand's **Employee Travel Voucher**, which was completed by him on 2 June 2005:

 <p style="text-align: center;">THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER</p>	Date	2-Jun-05	Em
	Name	Farhang Niroomand	
	Phone #	266-5028	Dept
	E-Mail	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu	
	Dept Name	COB - Dean's Office	
Title of Meeting: The 15th Conference on Monetary & Foreign Exchange Policies	Permission to Travel Filed (if yes, attach UNIVERSITY CLASSIFICA		
Location and Purpose of trip: Monetary & Banking Research Academy, Tehran, Iran Present paper and participate in panel discussion	Submitter	Sheila Marler	266-
	Accompanied By:		

Next, we turn to the meals and lodging portion of Niroomand's trip home:

MEALS AND LODGING									
Departure Time	AM	PM			Return Time	AM	PM		
Date	11-May-05	12-May-05	13-May-05	14-May-05	15-May-05	16-May-05	17-May-05	18-May-05	
Breakfast	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 413.36
Lunch	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 51.67	\$ 413.36
Dinner	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 51.66	\$ 413.28
Lodging									\$ -
<i>Note: for additional days, use tab TV pg2</i>								Total Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,240.00

As the insert above points out, the total costs of meals and lodging over the 11 May 2005 through 18 May 2005 period was \$1,240.00. What about use of his personal vehicle? That expense totaled \$14.58 (see below).

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE						
Did you use a University vehicle? Yes (or) No						
Date	From	To	Miles	Rate	TOTAL	
11-May-05	Hattiesburg, MS	PIB	18	0.405	\$ 7.29	
28-May-05	PIB	Hattiesburg	18	0.405	\$ 7.29	
<i>Note: for more milage, use either tab Multi Trip Mileage (or) TV pg2</i>					Total Travel By Personal Vehicle	\$ 14.58

Notice above that Niroomand did not arrive back at Pine Belt Airport until 28 May 2005, even though the Central Bank affair concluded almost 10 days before.

Of course, a trip to Iran will involve **Travel by Public Carrier**, which this one did. Those expenses are detailed below:

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER (Mode = Airfare, Rental Car, Bus, Train, etc)						
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amt		
5/11 & 28/05	PIB	Tehran, Iran (round trip)		\$ 1,894.09		
5/17 & 19/05	Tehran, Iran	Shiraz, Iran (round trip)		\$ 191.40		
<i>Note: for additional Public Carriers, use tab TV pg2</i>				Total Travel By Public Carrier	\$ 2,085.49	

Public carrier expenses came to a total of \$2,085.49, and included a round trip involving Tehran, Iran, and Shiraz, Iran (\$191.40).

The next screen below sums up the damage to USM and to Mississippi taxpayers that Niroomand's trip (of little fanfare) caused:

OTHER EXPENSES (For additional other expenses, use tab TV pg2)			
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount
Registration Fees			
Banquet Fee			
Tips (baggage handling)	5/11-19/05	Memphis, Amsterdam, Tehran	\$ 19.00
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	5/12-18/05	Tehran, Iran	\$ 56.00
Parking/Tolls			
Car Rental Gas			
ADVANCE RECEIVED? Yes (or) No			Total Other Expenses \$ 75.00
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS: TRAVEL VOUCHER Page 2			Total for this page \$ 3,415.07
			Total for TV pg2 \$ 200.00
			Total for Multi Trip Milage \$ -
			Total for BusRelatedExpense \$ -
By signing, I confirm that the above amounts claimed for travel expenses are true and accurate.			TOTAL ALL EXPENSES \$ 3,615.07

So, Niroomand's trip to Iran in May of 2005 came to a total of \$3,615.07, or roughly the entire yearly travel budgets of 4-6 CoB faculty members.

Notice the screen below, which is an expanded version of one presented above:

The 15th Conf on Monetary & Foreign Exchange Pol:
 Complete Name of Convention, Association, or Meeting (Do not abbreviate)

May 14-19, 2005 **COB**

Dates of Meeting Department Name


In the screen above, Niroomand notes that the "15th Conf . . ." runs from May 14-19, 2005. However, correspondence from officials in Iran tells a different story:

**The Fifteenth Conference on
 Monetary and Foreign
 Exchange Policies**

Tehran, May 16-17, 2005

No. Oct. 18, 2004
 Date. 8307/1074

Mr. Farhang Niroomand
 Department of Economics and
 International Business
 University of Southern Mississippi
 Hattiesburg MS 39406-5072
 USA



Monetary and Banking Research Academy
Affiliated to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Note that the document above describes a *two-day Conference*, and one that runs from *May 16-17, 2005*, and not a *six-day Conference* that runs from *May 14-19, 2005*, as Niroomand reports on his **Permission to Travel** form.

Not only may Niroomand have stretched a 2-day event into a 6-day one, he also extended a 4-7 day trip into a 2 and ½ -week junket, consuming a little more than one-half of the month of May, 2005, as the small insert below indicates:

Date	Did you t
11-May-05	
28-May-05	

This report delivers nothing but bad news to Mississippi taxpayers.

Update

The following screen indicates that Niroomand's reimbursement for this trip to Iran was \$2,300.00, and not for the full amount of expenses, which was \$3,615.07.

LESS ADVANCE	1840.00
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ 3,615.07
MAX REIMBURSED	2300.00

Niroomand did receive an advance of \$1,840, and additional paperwork suggests that he received reimbursement of \$460 in addition to that.