


Special Report

Why didn't this Trip Exhaust Nissan's Travel Budget? An Investigative Series on Travel by CoB Faculty

This Special Report is yet another example of the major issues regarding CoB travel that have been pointed out at usmpride.com. An open records request turned up the details of an August 2004 trip to Germany made by Edward Nissan (Professor of Economics). The screen below captures the purpose of Nissan's trip:



EMPLOYEE
TRAVEL VOUCHER

IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTIONS
ON BACK

Employee	Edward Nissan
The travel reimbursement check will be mailed to the paycheck, or advice (check stub) is mailed.	
Department Name	Eco., Fin., & Intern. Bus
Others On Trip	

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit Conference on Trade & currency, Frankfurt Germany	
---	--

As the insert above points out, Nissan planned to attend a "Conference on Trade & currency" in Frankfurt, Germany. That Conference appears to have taken place from August 1-6, 2004, as the screen below indicates:

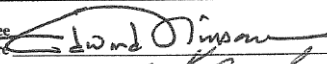
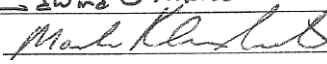
MEALS AND LODGING								
Date	8/01	8/02	8/03	8/04	8/05	8/06		Total
Departure Time	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	
Arrival Time	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	
Breakfast								
Lunch	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00	10 00		50 00
Dinner	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00	15 00		90 00
Lodging	85 75	102 40	85 75	85 75	85 75	85 75		531 20
Total Meals and Lodging								681 20

Nissan's total meals/lodging accounted for \$681.20 of the total cost of this trip. Another \$882.02 was consumed in **Travel by Public Carrier**, as the insert below points out:

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER				
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amount
7/27/04	New York	Frankfurt		
8/07/04	Frankfurt	New York		882 02
Total Travel By Public Carrier				882 02
OTHER EXPENSES				
		Place Where Expense Was Incurred		Amount

It's also interesting that (i) Nissan stayed in Germany from July 27 through August 7 of 2004, and (ii) all of Nissan's movements are between New York and Frankfurt, not Hattiesburg and Frankfurt. Not only is this another example of the suspect nature of Nissan's travel habits, it also supports the possibility that Nissan did not get back to USM to start Fall semester of 2004, given that it was already August 7th and he headed to New York from Frankfurt instead of to Hattiesburg. Nissan's penchant for missing large stretches of class time is now part of CoB lore.

The screen below concludes the paperwork on this trip to Germany:

OTHER EXPENSES				582.00
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount	
Registration Fees				
Tips (baggage handling)				
Taxi/Limousine	7/27-8/07	Buro 45 = \$58	58.00	
Parking/Tolls				
Car Rental				
Check Category of Travel (Items 3 through 5 require Permission To Travel Form)			Total Other Expenses	58.00
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Business Trip In-State/No Advance			Total Expenses	1,621.22
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Business Trip Out-of-State/No Advance			MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →	600.00
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Business Trip Out-of-State/With Advance				
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions, Conferences, Associations/In or Out-of-State				
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Country				
Report all expenditures, including expenses paid for with a travel advance.				
If the department limits the total expenditure, enter the amount on the "Maximum Reimbursement Allowed" block.				
Employee Signature 			Date 08/23/04	
Approved By 			Date 8/23/04	

Note that Nissan's expenses totaled \$1,621.22, though he was reimbursed \$600.00 of that amount.

One would think that this trip might have exhausted Nissan's travel allowance for the entire 2004-2005 academic year. It wasn't even close to being exhausted, as other reports at usmpride.com have pointed out. Not only did Nissan get this \$600 allowance, he also received \$1,900 in reimbursements for two separate trips to San Francisco – one in Fall of 2004 and the other in Spring of 2005.

And, Nissan's 2004-05 travels did not stop there. Consider the following trip to Myrtle Beach, for the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Economics and Finance, that Nissan made in February of 2005:



EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER

IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTION ON BACK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit Academy of Economics & Finance Myrtle Beach, SC	Department Name eco., Fin., & IB
	Others On Trip

Employee Edward Nissan

Address Box 5072

This trip cost USM a total of \$917.90, as the following screen indicates:

Report all expenditures, including expenses paid for with a travel advance. If the department limits the total expenditure, enter the amount on the "Maximum Reimbursement Allowed" block.	Total Other Expenses	13605
	Total Expenses	91790
	MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →	99000
Employee Signature <i>Edward Nissan</i>	Date	02/15/05
Approved By <i>Mark...</i>	Date	2/15/05

Then there's Nissan's December 2004 trip to the IPFT Expo in Jackson, as the screen below presents:



EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER

IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTION ON BACK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit IPFT Expo Jackson Mississippi	Department Name Eco., Fin., & Intern. Bus
	Others On Trip

Employee Edward Nissan

Address Box 5072

That trip came to a total of \$65, as reported below:

Report all expenditures, including expenses paid for with a travel advance. If the department limits the total expenditure, enter the amount on the "Maximum Reimbursement Allowed" block.	Total Other Expenses		
	Total Expenses	65	00
	MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →	130	00

Employee Signature Edward Nissan Date 12/02/04
 Approved By Mark Klus Date 1/19/05

In addition, there's Nissan's November of 2004 trip to the Regional Science Conference (what ever that means) in Seattle:



EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit Regional Science Conference Seattle, WA	Department Name ECO., Fin., & Intern. Bu
	Others On Trip

IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

Employee	Edward Nissan
Address	Box 5072 Hattiesburg, MS

This trip cost USM another \$953.15, as the screen below indicates:

Report all expenditures, including expenses paid for with a travel advance. If the department limits the total expenditure, enter the amount on the "Maximum Reimbursement Allowed" block.	Total Other Expenses	59	25
	Total Expenses	955	34
	MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →	953	15

Employee Signature Edward Nissan Date 11/18/04
 Approved By Mark Klus Date 11/18/04

Let's not omit Nissan's March 2005 trip to New Orleans to attend the Southwest Economic Association meetings, as seen below:



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER**

Date	
Name	Edward Nissan
Phone #	266-4648
E-Mail	Ingram@cba.i
Dept Name	Eco., Fin., & Ir
CHECK ONE	Faculty/ Staff
	Nick Adams, I

Southwest Economic Ass, New Orleans

This trip consumed another \$630 (see below):

			TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 60.00
By signing, I confirm that the above amounts claimed for travel expenses are true and accurate.			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 761.70
			LESS ADVANCE	\$ -
			TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ 630.00
Employee Signature/Date <i>Edward Nissan</i>	Chair or Next Higher Expenditure Authority/Date <i>Mark Klimek</i>	Contracts & Grants /Date (if restricted account) <i>Mark Klimek</i>		
Print Signature below	Print Signature below	Print Signature below		

That brings us to about \$5,100 *so far*, give or take a dollar or two. This will easily qualify as a "high dollar travel year" for Nissan, more than four times over.

Future reports will also examine Nissan's travels.