

Special Report

Stretching the Truth to Stretch the Trip An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Travel

This Special Report returns to the now well-known AACSB junket to Paris made by the CoB's Dean Harold Doty and Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. Visitors to usmpride.com will recall that Niroomand's trip to this AACSB meeting consumed more than \$4,000. A report on Doty's expenses is forthcoming.

The screen below shows how much Niroomand's trip to Paris cost taxpayers, not including the registration fee, which totaled almost \$1,200 by itself:

Total Other Expenses	\$ 212.50	
Total for this page	\$ 2,862.88	2861.4
Total for TV pg2	\$ 93.09	
Total for Multi Trip Milage	\$ -	
Total for BusRelatedExpense	\$ 55.09	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 2,965.97	2954.5
LESS ADVANCE	\$ 2,944.00	
TOTAL REIMBURSED	\$ 11.97	10.5?

Readers will also recall the memo written to USM Provost Jay Grimes by Doty justifying the trip's importance to the CoB and to USM. In that memo, Doty informs Grimes that the dates of the Conference are April 22-26, though Doty mistakenly indicates in this 20 January 2006 memo to Grimes that the year of the meeting is "2005" when it should have been written as "2006." Thus, Doty is attempting to inform Grimes that he (Doty) and Niroomand need to attend the AACSB conference in Paris that runs from April 22-26, 2006. The relevant portion of that memo from Doty to Grimes is presented below:

Memorandum

To: Jay Grimes, Provost

From: D. Harold Doty, Dean *DH*

Date: 1/20/2006

Re: Travel justification for Drs Doty and Niroomand to attend the AACSB International Conference and Annual Meeting in Paris, France

From April 22-26, 2005, AACSB International, the world's largest and most prominent body providing accreditation for management education is holding its annual meeting in Paris, France. Topics will include accreditation issues, industry trends, globalization issues, and the changing nature of management education. As this will be the last annual meeting prior to the College of

Niroomand's **Permission to Travel Form** adds a pre-conference date to the trip, so that the time frame involved from Niroomand's perspective is April 21-26, 2006. Those details are provided below:

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI http://www.usm.edu/procurement/travel.html PERMISSION TO TRAVEL <i>Submit at least two weeks prior to travel dates</i> <i>(90 days prior to foreign travel)</i>		Date Submitted
		Person Completing Form: Name
		Phone Number
		e-mail
Employee Name	Farhang Niroomand	Empl ID #
University Classification (circle one)	Faculty	SSN
Traveler's E-Mail Address	farhang.niroomand@usm.edu	Department Name
Phone #	601.266.5028	Department Box #
Dates of Travel (include traveling dates)	Beginning Date 21-Apr-06	Ending Date 26-Apr-06
Title of Meeting (Do not Abbreviate)	The AACSB & EFMD Internation Conference and Annual I	
Location of Meeting	Paris, France	
Purpose of Travel	Attend accreditation conference	

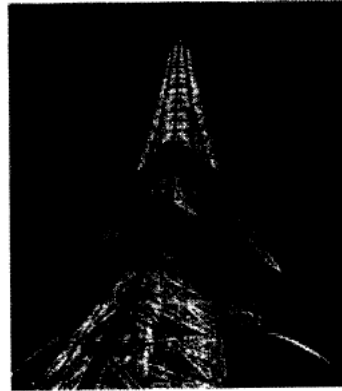
Niroomand submitted the form above in January of 2006. He also submitted some additional materials regarding the conference in Paris. Our investigators found one item submitted by Niroomand to Trudy Stewart (via e-mail in late January of 2006) to be quite intriguing. That item is exhibited below, and it indicates that the actual dates of the AACSB conference in Paris are April 23-25, not April 22-26, 2006, as Doty informed Grimes by memo (see above).

Trudy Stewart

From: "Niroomand" <Niroomand@cba.usm.edu>
To: <trudy.stewart@usm.edu>
Cc: ""Dr. Jay Grimes"" <Jay.Grimes@usm.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2006 11:12 AM
Attach: image002.jpg; image001.jpg
Subject: FW: Share Ideas; Learn from the Experts; in Paris

The AACSB and EFMD International Conference and Annual Meetings

**Network, share ideas,
learn from the experts
in Paris, April 23-25**



No matter what your area of expertise in management education, there will be something for you at the AACSB and EFMD International Conference and Annual Meetings this spring. From e-

Of course, one could claim that Doty added a travel date on either side of the Paris conference, thus changing an April, 23-25 time frame to an April, 22-26 time frame. But, recall that Niroomand added an additional travel date on the front end by departing on April 21, not April 22 (see **Permission to Travel Form** above). The series of dates submitted by Niroomand support his permission form, as the section of Niroomand's **Employee Travel Voucher** included below indicates:

MEALS AND LODGING								
Date	21-Apr-06	22-Apr-06	23-Apr-06	24-Apr-06	25-Apr-06	26-Apr-06		
Breakfast		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00	
Lunch	\$ 12.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 129.00	
Dinner	\$ 28.66	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 374.66	
Lodging		\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57		\$ 1,054.28	
Note: for additional days, use tabTV pg2							Total Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,682.94

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Thus, Niroomand's "early early" departure date added at least \$80 (approx.) to the meals costs of the junket. Any shuffling around Paris on 22 April 2006 would not have been conference-related, and should be added to this \$80 figure. An indication of how much could be added from shuttle services is given by the table below:

Tips (baggage handling)	422-4/26	Paris, France	\$ 19.00
Taxi/Shuttle/Limousine	4/22-4/26	Paris, France	\$ 193.50

On page 2 of Niroomand's voucher, he lists some "Other Expenses" items that were also filed on a **Business Related Expense Form**. These are:

OTHER EXPENSES			
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount
Telephone charges (phone card)	4/22-4/26	Paris, France	\$ 38.00
Dinner 4/22/06 - see BREF	22-Apr-06	Paris, France	\$ 33.65
Louvre - see BREF	23-Apr-06	Paris, France	\$ 21.44

From the table above it seems that Niroomand was racking up phone expenses on 22 April 2006, and that he had a “business dinner” of some sort on 22 April 2006 as well. That means that Niroomand’s expenses may have been \$200 higher than they would’ve been without the extra day early departure. It’s interesting to note that he visited the Louvre on the first day of the actual conference (23 April 2006) instead of participating in the conference itself. And, somehow this was a business expense.

Recall from an earlier report in this series that Doty explained to USM Provost Jay Grimes that his and Niroomand’s trip to Paris for the AACSB meeting was a “must attend” event, given the importance of the impending AACSB visit to USM. Doty’s words to Grimes are inserted below:

education. As this will be the last annual meeting prior to the College of Business’s AACSB maintenance of accreditation visit, I believe it is important for both the Associate Dean and I to attend. Frankly, the Undergraduate and Graduate program directors in the college should also attend this year, but given budget constraints I have pulled their permission to travel requests. I may

Now that we learn how Niroomand “blew off” the first day of the conference (see Louvre details above), usmpride.com readers can look for future updates to this report as new information is processed and can be made available.