

Special Report

Nov 2001, Niroomand Goes "Down Under"

An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

This "Special Report" continues a multi-part examination of Employee Travel Vouchers in USM's College of Business. In this report, we examine the details of CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand's (also Professor of Economics) November 2001 trip to Sydney, Australia.

Purpose and Place of Visit

The "Purpose and Place of Visit" box of the voucher filed by Niroomand in this case is presented below:

Purpose and Place of Visit	Department Name
To attend the 2001 Academy of International Business Annual Meeting Sydney, Australia	DEV/Instructional Dev.

Note that Niroomand does not appear to be an official participant at the Conference. Note also that "Instructional Development" funds of some sort were used to (at least partially) fund the trip. The voucher was signed by Farhang Niroomand and William Gunther, Dean of the College of Business Administration at the time.

Employee Travel Voucher Number

The Voucher Number (Date) for this trip is #3343 (12/7/01).

Analysis of Expenses

Voucher # 3343

MEALS AND LODGING

Date	11/14	11/15	11/16	11/17	11/18	
Breakfast			\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	
Lunch	\$12.50		\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	
Dinner	\$23.00		\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Lodging			\$168.98	\$168.98	\$168.98	
Date	11/19	11/20				Total
Breakfast	\$16.00	\$16.00				\$152.00
Lunch	\$30.00	\$30.00				\$252.50
Dinner	\$50.00	\$50.00				\$480.59
Lodging	\$168.98	\$168.98				\$1,351.8-
						\$2,236.95*
						\$2,236.93

TRAVEL BY PERSONAL VEHICLE

Date	From	To	Miles		
11/14/01	Hattiesburg, MS	New Orleans Airport	125		
11/24/01	New Orleans Airport	Hattiesburg, MS	<u>125</u>		\$82.80
			250	x .345	\$86.25
				120	
				<u>x2</u>	
				240	

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER

Date	From	To	Mode		
11/14/01	New Orleans, LA	Sydney, Australia	AIR		
11/24/01	Sydney, Australia	New Orleans, LA	AIR		
				Total Travel By Public Carrier	\$1,931.08

OTHER EXPENSES

Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Occurred	Amount		
Registration Fees	11/16/01	Sydney, Australia	\$450.00		
Tips (Bagg Han)	11/14-11/24	New Orleans, Sydney	\$24.00		
Taxi/Limo	11/16-11/24	Sydney, Australia	\$146.80		
Parking/Tolls	11/14-11/24	New Orleans, LA Airport	\$105.50		
Telephone/Fax	11/16-11/24	Sydney, Australia	\$12.10		
				Total Other Expenses	\$738.40
				Total Expenses	\$4,992.58
				MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →	\$4,600.00
				Adv	<\$3,680.00>

Analysis and Commentary

In all, this trip to Sydney during 2001 consumed \$4,600 in travel funds. On an individual level, Niroomand's expenditures in this case alone account for roughly the *annual* travel budgets of about **eight** CoB faculty (per fiscal year).

Why are CoB administrators/faculty allowed to consume so much \$/trip when they are not on the official program? What was the actual source of funds for this trip? An instructional development account?

These and other questions will be addressed as the "Special Reports" series on CoB travel continues.