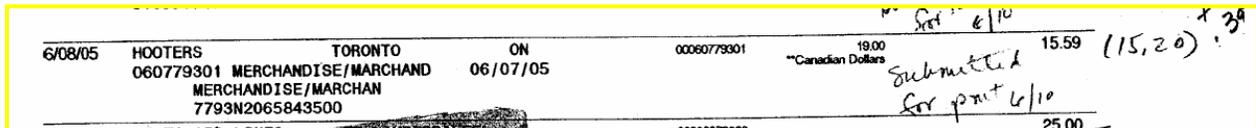


# The High *and* Low Culture of Accreditation

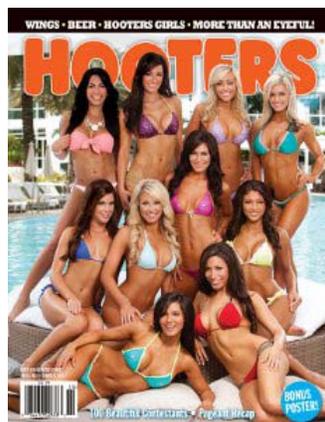
*How AACSB Shenanigans by Doty and Niroomand Cost the CoB in 2007*

Interest in University of Texas-Tyler business dean Harold Doty and University of Houston-Victoria business dean Farhang Niroomand may be at an all-time high. Doty is currently fighting back the heat of Karen St. John's gender discrimination lawsuit against b-school officials at UT-T, and Niroomand is reportedly on fire about dissention in the b-school at UH-V. As such, it would likely be helpful for all of the readers from in and around Tyler and Victoria to take a look at what things were like in USM's College of Business back in the early part of 2007, when Doty and Niroomand were *together* as dean and associate dean, and the college was undergoing a re-accreditation effort for the AACSB.

It was then that regular readers of USMNEWS.net were learning about the CoB's efforts, all leading up to the Feb-2007 re-accreditation visit, to prepare for AACSB re-accreditation, arguably the most important task of a b-school's administration. In 2005, Doty travelled all the way to Toronto in order to attend an AACSB conference on teaching. This was to be one brick in the wall showing the AACSB that USM's CoB was serious about business education. And, this was an expensive brick, as registration fees for AACSB conferences reach into the thousands, while trips from Hattiesburg, MS, to Canada are anything but cheap. However, as *Special Report 54* told USMNEWS.net readers, he was not totally invested in that particular 2005 AACSB trip – Doty [was instead](#) hanging out in the Toronto Hooters restaurant (see insert below), perhaps being the type of person that St. John alleges in her Smith County Court complaint (i.e., [Doty thinks of women](#) mainly as “chicks and broads”) from 2011.



USMNEWS.net learned of Doty's visit to Hooters by way of copies of his USM Corporate American Express Card statements, which were obtained from USM through a freedom of information filing. The insert above, taken from one of those statements, shows Doty's visit to the Toronto Hooters.



Later, in 2006, it was Niroomand's opportunity to turn an AACSB trip (to France) into personal pleasure. That year, Niroomand made a trip to Paris to attend an AACSB conference in preparation for the CoB's site visit from AACSB in early 2007. The registration fee for this three-day event (23-April, 24-April, and 25-April) was just under \$1,200 – an event that Niroomand represented to USM central

administration was taking place from 22-April-2006 through 26-April-2006. Thus, Niroomand departed Mississippi on 21-April-2006.

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

Over the few days in Paris, Niroomand spent almost \$1,700 in lodging and meals, and another \$200+ in tips, taxis, and limousines. In addition to these, he made \$38 in phone calls, and about \$34 on a “business dinner” he had the evening before the first day of the conference. USMNEWS.net analysts put the total cost of this trip, for Niroomand alone, at more than \$4,000. This is known again via a freedom of information filing that provided the documents needed for USMNEWS.net reporters [to produce Special Report 66](#). That report also let the USM family and Mississippi taxpayers know that Niroomand “blew off” the first day of the conference, 23-April-2006, visiting the Louvre (see insert just above) instead of improving USM’s business college, even though he had already been in Paris for two days.



Of course, visiting the Louvre in Paris (shown above) is the opposite of strutting into the Toronto Hooters, as Doty did during his 2005 AACSB International trip. Both stories recounted here clearly show the high (Niroomand’s shenanigan) and low (Doty’s shenanigan) culture of it all. Sadly for USM constituents, an AACSB visitation team showed up at USM in Feb-2007 and found the business college sorely lacking in several areas. There was enough missing that the infamous 2007 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review was awarded the CoB. Doty and Niroomand, however, had already had their only chance to re-accredit the CoB. In a move that shocked the USM community, the two of them “resigned” their b-school posts in April-2007, and took extended leave – Doty to go fishing, and Niroomand to work on his Department of Education grant. Of course, that’s how then-USM provost Jay Grimes explained it all to CoB faculty and staff who were gathered before him on the third floor of Greene Hall back in the spring of 2007.