## University of Houston – Vampire

Once a NASBITEr, Always a NASBITEr

Former CoB associate dean (1998-2007), and current business school dean at the University of Houston – Victoria (2008-present), Farhang Niroomand, once took "<u>a NASBITE out of the [USM] budget</u>." That turn of phrase refers to the old USMNEWS.net report about Niroomand's April-2002 trip to San Francisco, to attend a <u>NASBITE International</u> conference (see insert below). NASBITE is an acronym for North American Small Business International Trade Educators.

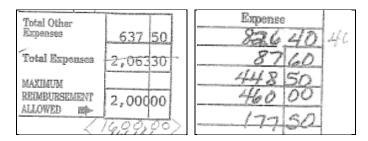
EMPLOYEE TRAVEL VOUCHER	Employee	EE INSTRUCTIONS (
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Address To Which Check Should Be Sent	Box 5021 Hattiesburg, MS
Purpose and Place of Visit To attend the NASBITE meeting in San Francisco, CA	Dept. College of Others On Trip	of Business Adm.

Niroomand's trip back in 2002 came to \$877.40 in *meals and lodging costs alone*. The personal vehicle use and public carrier (airfare) costs consumed an additional \$530 (see inserts below).

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The "other expenses" associated with this trip ran USM another \$637.50, bringing the total cost of Niroomand's April-2002 NASBITE experience to about \$2,000. To cover this cost, Niroomand dipped into *five different <u>pats of money</u>* (see inserts below).

THER EXPENSES Item	Date	Diana Million The Contract of		448 5
Registration Fees		Place Where Expense Incurred	Amount	
	4/10-14/02	San Francisco	400 00	
Tips (baggage handling)	4/10-14/02	San Francisco		
Faxi/Limousine	4/10-14/02		11 00	~
Parking/Tolls		San Francisco	96 50	
Car Rental	4/10-14/02	New Orleans, LA Airport	60 00	-
	1			
Telephone Ĉ4	d		10 00	The second se
eck Category of Travel brough 5 require Permission	<u>_</u>	Report all expenditures including those expenses paid for with a travel advance.	Total Other	1



One year later, in April-2003, Niroomand once again hit the NASBITE circuit, this time traveling from USM to San Antonio (see insert below).

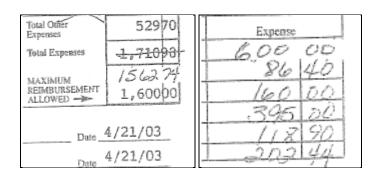
	IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTIC ON BACK
( ) EMPLOYEE	Employee Farhang Niroomand
TRAVEL VOUCHER	The travel reimbursement check will be mailed to paycheck, or advice (check stub) is mailed.
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Department Name
Purpose and Place of Visit Attend the annual	CBA
meeting of NASBITE San Antonio, TX	Others On Trip

This time, the lodging and meal costs came to \$802.44, while the personal vehicle costs and airfare totaled about \$250 (see inserts below).

MEALS AND LO	DCING							Total
Date	4/12/03	4/13/03	4/14/03	4/15/03	4/16/03			TOLD
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4/16/03	San Anto	1107 IA	14	our one deleter the		Total Travel	By Public Carrier	16000
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Once again, Niroomand incurred a number of "other expenses," this time totaling \$529.70. The 2003 NASBITE junket consumed a total of about \$1,600, requiring the use of *no fewer than six <u>pots of money</u> at USM* (see inserts below).

OTHER EXPENSES	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount	~
Registration Fees	4/12-16/03	San Antonio	395 00	
Tips (baggage handling)	4/12-16/03	San Antonio	11 00	
Taxi/Limousine	4/12-16/03	San Antonio	47 90	
Parking/Tolls	4/12-16/03	New Orleans Airport	60 00	
Car Rental			15-80	-
Telephone	4/12-16/03	San Antonio	Total Other	50070



The USMNEWS.net report linked above indicates that Niroomand was reimbursed almost \$3,600 for these two NASBITE trips – an amazing sum, at least according to sources. In "Niroomand terms," however, these trips represent just a drop in the bucket. Another <u>report here at USMNEWS.net indicates</u> that the former CoB associate dean spent more than \$75,000 in travel over the 59 months from Aug-2001 through June-2006. The trips involved on this run covered just under 150,000 miles, meaning that Niroomand made about six trips around the world, or he traveled more than halfway from the earth to the moon.

Examination of recent travel vouchers from Niroomand's current institutional home, UH-V, shows that the current b-school dean continues to journey to-and-from NASBITE meetings. For example, in April-2010 Niroomand made the trip to Austin, TX, for a NASBITE meeting. Fortunately for UH-V, Niroomand's "bite" was more like a nibble than a full-fledged feast. As the insert below shows, Niroomand's recent NASBITE junket (two days) cost UH-V only \$400. Though not inconsequential, this "bite" is nothing like the \$1,500 to \$2,000 NASBITE hits that USM suffered under Niroomand's associate-reign of the CoB. Lastly, it seems fitting to close this installment in the series with a letter from a USMNEWS.net reader, who comments on the first installment:

## Dear USM News,

I note the lack of itemized expenses [on the UH-V travel voucher]. [Farhang] Niroomand must be in his version of heaven.

## [name withheld]

Clearly, the USMNEWS.net reader is referencing the bare-bones nature of the travel voucher that is currently being used at the University of Houston – Victoria. By not requiring detailed travel data, the form actually provides Niroomand with the sort of spending cover that sources say he desires.

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