

# Invitation or Invoice?

## A Look at the Cost to the CoB of “Invitations” to its Faculty

This report examines one of the patterns that researchers are finding as USMPRIDE.COM explores the CoB’s travel vouchers. That pattern is one of CoB faculty being “invited” to speak at various places overseas, only to have the CoB pick up the tab after all is said and done. To date we have discovered three such cases, one involving Farhang Niroomand (Associate Dean and Professor of Economics) and two involving Chang Tseh-Hsieh (Professor of MIS). These are presented in Exhibit 1 below.

The Niroomand case is the subject of a “Special Report” at USMPRIDE.COM. He was “invited” to present a paper at the Central Bank of Iran in July of 2002. The academy ran from 7/15 through 7/19, though Niroomand remained in Iran, his native country, until 7/31. That trip cost USM \$3,200. We are told that Niroomand receives this “invitation” on an annual basis, including just recently (2006), and USMPRIDE.COM researchers will make those records available when they are uncovered.

Hsieh was invited to lecture at Nankai University in China in September of 2003, and at National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, his native country, in May of 2004. The cost of these two trips was about \$2,700. Hsieh also remained at each of the locales for quite some time --- about 10 days in each case. Details from these two trips are provided in Exhibit 1 below.

### Exhibit 1

<b>Name</b>	<b>“Purpose/Place of Visit”</b>	<b>Voucher</b>	<b>“Spent”</b>	<b>Reimbursed</b>
Hsieh, C.	“Invited” speaker at National Tsing Hua University and journal editor related business, Taiwan, May 11-20, 2004	no #	\$1,754.57	\$1,754.57

Hsieh, C.	“Invited” lecture at Nankai University, Tianjin, China, September 1-10, 2003	no #	\$1,147.55	\$ 900.00
Niroomand, F.	“Invited” to participate and present a paper at the Monetary and Banking Research Academy of the Iranian Central Bank, Tehron, Iran, July 15-19, 2002	9495	\$3,755.47	\$3,200.00

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As more examples of “invitations” that are funded by USM’s CoB are uncovered, they will be presented in updated versions of this report, which will be available on USMPRIDE.COM.