

A Closer Look at Niroomand's Travel

Updated 4 August 2006

On August 1, 2007 the first three in a series of reports surfaced regarding the travel habits of CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. In the Special Report "Niroomand on the Move," a month by month analysis of travel was reported. Upon closer inspection of those travel vouchers (covering travel between October 14, 2001 and May 22, 2003) we find some intriguing facts.

FACT 1:

Niroomand spent all or part of 111 days traveling during 9/20/2001 and 5/22/2003. These 111 days represent 18.23% of the total days (609) during that period. If you called Niroomand's house during that period and didn't get an answer, you now know why. If weekend days are removed from consideration, Niroomand missed 81 work days out of a possible 436 work days, or about 18.58% of the total work days because of travel. If you called Niroomand's office during that period and got voicemail, you now know why.

FACT 2:

Niroomand's teaching schedule is consistently Tuesdays and Thursdays. Regardless of semester (fall or spring) Niroomand teaches 1 course per semester on those days. Of the 81 work days missed between 9/20/2001 and 5/22/2003, 25 were "teaching" days. While we cannot discern if Niroomand did or did not meet classes on those days, we are certain that his office hours (and thus his students' opportunities for learning) must have suffered as a result.

FACT 3:

Travel vouchers for Niroomand's "Academic Visit" to the University of Washington indicate that Niroomand visited the Seattle, Wash., area from 3/10/2003 to 3/16/2003. However, there is some information redacted (poorly) from the voucher. The voucher reads "Academic visit to University of Washington and ~~University of British Columbia~~ Seattle, ~~Washington and Vancouver~~". Legible through the scratch-outs are the words "University of British Columbia" and "Washington and Vancouver". Niroomand's travel voucher also shows other signs of cross-border activity, including "Ferry and Monorail" travel amounting to \$146.60, of which USM reimbursed \$56.00. Our analysts are still considering why \$146.60 of "Ferry and Monorail" travel was needed in

Seattle, especially since Niroomand reported a car rental in Seattle (\$288.06) and phone/gas charges (\$101.55) also for Seattle. Could these redacted pieces indicate an attempt to attain reimbursement for unauthorized international travel? The research staff is continuing to dig through piles of paper.