



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A03100057

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In the course of a review of expenditures under selected conference grants, we requested records from an institution¹ for expenditures under an NSF award.² The proposal requested \$10,000 in travel expenses for graduate students and invited speakers to attend a conference to be held in 2001. The records provided showed that grant funds were used for attendance at the 2001 conference, but \$3,212 was used for travel expenses for graduate students to attend two conferences in 2002. Because neither 2002 conference was within the explicit scope of this grant as set out in the proposal, and neither was mentioned in the final report filed by the PI, we asked the institution to justify charging these costs to this grant.

In response, the institution urged that the general "goal of the grant . . . as stated in the proposal, was to 'attract and excite young researchers in the field,'" and that attendance at the 2002 conferences "was in my determination consistent with the scope of this grant. . . . I feel [the institution] acted in good faith to maximize the benefit of the funds during both the initial and no-cost extension period of performance of the grant in accordance with it's [sic] purpose."

We found the institution's response to be adequate to explain the relatedness of the expenditures to the purpose of the grant; accordingly, this case is closed.

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