



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I 03110060

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A proactive review of various Conference Grants identified two specific concerns regarding an NSF Award¹ to a university² to support a conference they were sponsoring³. First, although the Grant was awarded in September of 2001, at the time of this review the conference had not yet been held. The preliminary review did identify that two no-cost extensions had been approved on this award with the most current one schedule to expire in August of 2004.

The second issue identified involved one of the experts identified in the initial proposal as a conference participant and speaker. This individual is now the Program Director⁴ at NSF and his/her participation may have created a conflict of interest.

We initially requested additional information from the university and received their response a few weeks later. This response confirmed that the conference had been held and that the NSF Program Director was not a participant nor attendee of the conference.

The university also submitted an accounting of the expenses for the conference and our review of these documents found the expenses and categories to be consistent with the initial budget proposal.

It is our conclusion that the university properly requested the time extension and had administered the grant properly. Additionally there is no conflict of interest with the NSF Program Director.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

