



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I04020007

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We received the following allegations involving two subjects¹ who served as high-level administrators² at a grantee institution:³ (1) false statements; (2) over-billing of salary; (3) duplication of effort; (4) conflict of interests; and (5) corporate shells/fraud. The allegations related to two NSF awards,⁴ for which one subject was the PI on both awards,⁵ and the other subject was a co-PI on one of the awards.⁶ In addition, we received a separate but related allegation regarding a company⁷ with a tenuous relationship to one subject.

Upon investigation, we determined and the awardee institution conceded that one subject had over-billed his salary as PI for one NSF award during an eight-month span of time that he was overextended in his responsibilities. The institution agreed to and did reimburse NSF for that over-billed amount of salary, plus associated indirect costs. In addition, we recommended that the awardee institution revise its COI policies to allow all employees an independent means by which to report conflicts. Finally, we determined that none of the other allegations could be substantiated.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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