

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 31, 1997

To: [REDACTED] File No. 196090050 [REDACTED]

Through: [REDACTED] Special Agent in Charge, Investigations Section

From: [REDACTED] Forensic Scientist, Investigations Section  
[REDACTED] Investigative Attorney, Investigations Section [REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED] - Case Close Out

On September 13, 1996, an accountant from Madison, WI referred allegations to our office concerning NSF's [REDACTED] grant. While conducting an audit for the [REDACTED] the accountant's audit staff heard that [REDACTED] the grant's fiscal manager and [REDACTED] executive director, was often not at the sites that he said he was visiting for [REDACTED] business. They also heard that [REDACTED] had a financial interest in [REDACTED] a vendor for the [REDACTED] grant.

The project director for the [REDACTED] grant stated that [REDACTED] had been absent from many [REDACTED] meetings, [REDACTED] s, and conferences.<sup>1</sup> Because [REDACTED] is the fiscal manager and his office is in a different city, the project director said she did not know how much time [REDACTED] had charged to the grant, but he was not present very often. She also stated that she has assigned other staff members to do [REDACTED] work because he is absent so much. Finally, she said that [REDACTED] could have been doing work for the [REDACTED] (A) during the time that he was supposed to be doing [REDACTED] work.

[REDACTED] has been the PI and Co-PI on the following NSF awards since 1991:

NSF grant no. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ve

NSF grant no. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup> As stated in the budget justification, [REDACTED] responsibilities did not include leading and developing [REDACTED] His job tasks did include site development and visitation, however.

NSF grant no. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] telephoned NSFOIG and agreed to a voluntary interview, which took place on January 16, 1997. Prior to the interview, [REDACTED] provided, on a voluntary basis, a journal of his work activities and timesheets for the grants detailing all of the time he spent working on various projects and assignments. [REDACTED] also brought documents to the interview, including a calendar where he records daily work activities and the original copy of his journal as well as other information about [REDACTED] and his various work activities. After the interview, [REDACTED] sent us copies of the sign-in sheets for the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]s that he had attended as well as copies of his timecards. Based upon the documents provided, we found no evidence or patterns of fraud or mischarging to the grant.

[REDACTED] provided us with a sworn statement explaining his job responsibilities and positions, current projects, record keeping, and relationship to [REDACTED]. He explained that he kept various records and journals to support the information he listed on the timesheets. He began keeping these records after hearing rumors relating to his conduct on grants. In addition, [REDACTED] stated that he has always been accessible to his staff through a pager and cellular phone.

Regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] explained that this was a non-profit company that he began with a friend back in the 1970's. He said that [REDACTED] rents camping and other equipment. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had leased equipment to the NSF grants, thereby recovering the costs of the equipment, but had not profited from it. [REDACTED] also stated that he had never paid himself any money from [REDACTED]. We have not found any evidence contrary to [REDACTED] explanations. [REDACTED] said that he disbanded [REDACTED] because of the allegations regarding the company and the appearance that his financial interest in [REDACTED] might conflict with his other work responsibilities.

[REDACTED] is the current treasurer for the [REDACTED], and has held that position since 1994. [REDACTED] said that all travel and expenses for [REDACTED] functions are reimbursed through the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] admitted that occasionally, he had conducted work for his NSF grants in conjunction with his [REDACTED] travel, and therefore charged the grants accordingly. These charges were reflected in many of [REDACTED] memorandums for travel reimbursements.

We reviewed the timesheets, participant support payments and journal records for the [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] grants<sup>2</sup> and have found no evidence that [REDACTED] had mischarged his salary to the [REDACTED] grant, nor have we found any other indications of fraud. In addition, we have found no evidence showing that [REDACTED] financial interest in [REDACTED] influenced the management of the [REDACTED] grant. Based on these findings, this case is closed.

<sup>2</sup> We also reviewed the timesheets that [REDACTED] provided for NSF grant no. [REDACTED]