

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 30, 1997

*Approved* [redacted]

To: File No. I96110058

From: [redacted] Special Agent, Investigations Section [redacted]

Re: Close out - [redacted]

Background:

Our office received an allegation in November 1997 that the two principal investigators (PI), [redacted] and [redacted] for NSF grant no. [redacted] had given themselves stipends in the amount of \$20,000 and \$10,000 (one stipend each) from the NSF grant funds. We investigated to find if the PIs had fraudulently used federal funds.

Investigation:

We reviewed the program jackets for this project and found that [redacted] salary in the budget for year 4 of the project had been revised from \$51,618 to \$71,074, and [redacted] from \$58,034 to \$71,723. We examined the program jacket and found no budget justification explaining this increase although the PIs had slightly increased their level of effort. The cognizant NSF program officer approved and signed the revised budget. When questioned about the salary revisions, the program officer admitted that she had not noticed this increase when she approved the budget. She stated, however, that the increase, although substantial, was justified. She explained that salaries are determined by [redacted] not NSF. The program officer remembered that [redacted] was given a raise because of an equity issue when she was tenured. She said that both salaries had to be authorized by [redacted] before being calculated in the NSF budget.

In addition to reviewing the PI's salaries, we reviewed account summaries, travel vouchers, and vendor/participant support payments charged to the NSF grant. This review found no evidence of fraud.

Conclusion(s):

We have found no evidence that supports these allegations. This case is closed.