



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A03040015

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The case allegation is a potential false statement made to NSF in text identified by the PI¹ of an ongoing grant² as student evaluations of a course³ taught with NSF support in Spring 2002. These comments were included in a project progress report sent to NSF. The student comments were the same as also provided in the original proposal submitted earlier.

We wrote to the PI of the grant to seek an explanation for the discrepancy and for information about the course(s) taught or developed with NSF support from the grant.

The PI admits responsibility for the error, specifically the inclusion of student comments that were derived from a previous course. He explained that he composed the report while away from his workplace, and did not therefore have his colleagues or coPIs proof the document. He feels that they would have caught his inadvertent error.

The PI provides registration information for the course taught with NSF support, and provided copies of the standard University survey/questionnaire completed by the students in the course. In addition, he provided copies of the completed student questionnaires specific to the course. The PI also provided a listing of two other courses taught with NSF support, and the completed standard University evaluation forms for students enrolled in these courses.

To summarize, the PI claims that the inclusion of the wrong student comments was an unintentional error; we accept the explanation. The PI has provided copies of the proper student evaluations for the course taught with NSF support. The allegation of a false statement is therefore without substance.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ redacted.

² redacted.

³ redacted.