NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A03110073

Page 1 of 1

We reviewed an allegation[1] that Current and Pending Support (CPS) declarations in proposals submitted to NSF from several different investigators from several different institutions contained inaccurate information. Assessment of CPS declarations in the proposals revealed inconsistencies in the information provided. These inconsistencies were deemed sufficiently serious for follow up in two cases.

For the first subject,[2] the issue was inconsistent information regarding his support from an ongoing grant from another Federal agency, and discordant reports of effort associated with that grant and the proposed NSF grant. The subject's response letter explained his reasoning for the effort listed for each grant, citing a vagueness in the instructions and his year round efforts on the grants. The subject was reminded in a letter of the importance of providing accurate information.

For the second subject,[3] evaluation revealed missing and inconsistent CPS information, even in pairs of proposals that were submitted only a short time apart. The subject admits to inaccuracies in his CPS declarations, but claims that CPS information is compiled and entered by his department, often at the last minute, in his absence from the campus, and in the face of an impending submission deadline. The director of the sponsored research office[4] confirms that institutional policy is not to review such information as submitted by the PI or the department. We sent a letter to the subject emphasizing the importance of providing accurate information in proposals submitted to NSF, and we sent a letter to the director of the sponsored research office to remind him of their certification responsibilities.

With no substance established for the allegation of purposeful submission of misinformation, no further inquiry is needed to protect NSF interests.

Accordingly, this case is _**closed**_.

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[1] redacted
[2] redacted
[3] redacted
[4] redacted