



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04050036

Page 1 of 1

A complainant¹ forwarded to us an email sent by the administrative officer for an NSF division² (the subject) to the division's staff. The email stated that a single company³ was "[t]he company that [the division] will be using for upcoming panels" The complainant was concerned first because the email reduced the options available for panelists; the complainant subsequently received complaints from panelists about the company's performance. The complainant pointed out that the company's website contained an endorsement by the subject.

Soon after we received the complaint, the subject left NSF. We found nothing indicating that the subject was associated with the company. We interviewed the subject, who stated that she had no association with the company. She told the division to use the company for that particular set of panels because they had received direction to stop using another company exclusively. She did not intend that the company would be used exclusively prospectively, and in fact, by the time she left NSF, the division had gone back to letting the program assistants decide themselves how to handle the arrangements for panelists.

There is no evidence that the subject's action was intended to favor the company inappropriately or avoid competition. Accordingly, this case is closed.

1
2
3