



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04100065

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We were informed<sup>1</sup> of a university<sup>2</sup> investigation into allegations that travel funds from an NSF award<sup>3</sup> were used to inappropriately cover the costs of personal trips for three subjects.<sup>4</sup> When we inquired, the university said it was investigating allegations regarding:

- 1) Improper charges to an NSF award<sup>5</sup> for a personal trip by subject 1 and subject 3,
- 2) Improper charging by subject 1 and 2 to an award from another federal agency<sup>6</sup> and Subject 1's NSF award for a professional trip unrelated to the awards,
- 3) Improper possession of student course evaluations by subject 1,
- 4) Failure of subject 1 to reveal a personal relationship with subject 2 while participating in the hiring decision for Subject 2, and
- 5) Subject 2's travel to another city was improperly charged to another NSF award.<sup>7</sup>

We concluded that allegations 3 and 4 were not within NSF jurisdiction and did not pursue them further. With regard to the remaining allegations, the university credited the NSF awards for the inappropriately charged travel.<sup>8</sup> Each subject received a letter of reprimand and was required to reimburse the university for the inappropriate travel charges. In addition, all three are required to review the relevant university procedures and, for 1 year, have all travel for reviewed with a university administrator.

We also learned that the relationship between subject 1 and the co-PI<sup>9</sup> on her award had deteriorated to the point that the co-PI resigned from her NSF award. The university continued to pay the co-PI from the NSF award and ultimately returned those funds to the award.<sup>10</sup> The University nominated and NSF approved subject 2 as the replacement co-PI. The university actions have resolved the issues related to the NSF awards and this case is closed.

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 Subject 1 is [REDACTED] a faculty member in the [REDACTED], Subject 2 [REDACTED], a faculty member in the [REDACTED] Subject 3 [REDACTED] is in [REDACTED]. All three are at the [REDACTED].  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 See footnote 5.  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]