



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I01090021

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**Subjects:** [redacted] and [redacted] along with additional officials

### ALLEGATIONS OF FALSE STATEMENTS AND FUNDING IRREGULARITIES - REDACTED

On 8 August 2001, the Office of Inspector General was forwarded an email containing allegations from [redacted] (COMPLAINANT), a professor at [redacted] and PI on NSF grant [redacted]. According to the COMPLAINANT, [redacted], along with [redacted] "made false statements to a federal agency [and engaged in] . . . questionable practices regarding NSF funding." The COMPLAINANT sent these allegations after [redacted] sent an email to NSF inquiring about a \$4,200 travel stipend amendment to NSF grant [redacted], requested by the COMPLAINANT, and submitted to the [redacted] Sponsored Research Office and NSF. Apparently, the Sponsored Research Office never approved this amendment. Officials at NSF approved this amendment after they were told over the telephone that [redacted]'s FastLane system was not operational. However, according to [redacted], [redacted]'s FastLane system never experienced any difficulties. Whoever called NSF (COMPLAINANT or [redacted] officials) is not clear, and not relevant, as NSF withdrew the funding after [redacted] officials so requested.

This matter arose from substantial disagreements between the COMPLAINANT and [redacted] administration, with the COMPLAINANT filing lawsuits and a discrimination complaint with the Office of Civil Rights at the United States Department of Education (OCR-DOE), and [redacted] raising questions about the COMPLAINANT's handling of the NSF grant. [redacted] had earlier written to NSF expressing concern about whether the COMPLAINANT's activities under the NSF grant were compliant with NSF requirements, and soon after the incident involving the unauthorized amendment, [redacted] wrote to NSF stating that [redacted] was suspending all work under the grant and would be returning any unexpended funds. The COMPLAINANT's allegation about false statements to NSF is without support and is inextricably enmeshed in the disputes he is pursuing against [redacted] in court and before OCR-DOE, and does not warrant investigation by our office.

As for the COMPLAINANT's allegation of "questionable practices regarding NSF funding," an examination of the audit workpapers completed by a third party audit firm at the request of OIG-Audit reveals significant problems in the financial accounting systems at [redacted], but no evidence of fraud or criminal activity with respect to this NSF grant. The auditors came to these conclusions after a site visit, and after reading the workpapers, our office (OIG-Investigations) agrees. Accordingly, this case is closed.

|             | Agent | Attorney | Supervisor | AIGI |
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| Sign / date |       |          |            |      |