

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

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This matter was open as part of Program Income review of conference grants. Initial review identified that the grantee paid a USDA employee to attend an international scientific conference in Canada. Review of the documents revealed that the USDA employee, who also holds an appointment at a university, disclosed to the grantee that he was a USDA employee, and could not receive direct payment for expenses. The USDA employee notified the grantee that payment should be made to the university. The Grantee issued the payment to the university.

NSF's "ADMINISTRATION OF NSF CONFERENCE OR GROUP TRAVEL AWARD – GRANT SPECIAL CONDITIONS (FL 26)," states that Federal employees may be compensated for their travel expenses to attend the conference/workshop provided that prior written approval is obtained from their agency.

We consulted with USDA-OIG and determined that the employee acted appropriately by disclosing he was a USDA employee and having payment made to the university.

Accordingly, this case is *closed*.