



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-04100033

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In July 2004, the Office of Inspector General initiated a proactive review of participant support funds allocated to NSF awards. Participant support costs are expended to or on the behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) for stipends, subsistence, travel and registration fees for conferences, symposiums and/or workshops. To that end, OIG randomly selected this award¹ for review.

Our office contacted the university for an explanation of the travel expenses used to support travel expensed for university employees² and the principal investigators.³ Also, there was a group photo taken at the conference that was paid for with grant funds but did not appear to be budgeted in the documentation submitted by the university to the agency.

The university was able to provide our office with documentation demonstrating that the program office at the agency was aware that some of the participant support funds would be used for the PI's as well as other university employees. They also provide an acceptable explanation for the photo expenditure.

After reviewing the supplemental documentation and explanation of expenditures, our office is satisfied that the university did not violate the participant support guidelines. Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ footnote redacted

² footnote redacted

³ footnote redacted