



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-04120046

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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 initial review of the documentation submitted by the university² revealed several expenditures that did not appear to be allowable under the participant support guidelines. The preliminary inquiry was closed and an investigation was initiated in order to get further information from the university.

Specifically, our review noted that participant support monies were used to pay lodging and travel expenses for the PI³ and several faculty members, salary was charged to the grant and other miscellaneous expenses not budgeted were charged to the NSF award.

OIG contacted the university and asked for additional documentation or explanation of the charges. A spreadsheet of all the charges that were inappropriately charged to the grant was prepared and sent along with our request.

After reviewing the additional documentation submitted and explanation for other charges to the grant, OIG was satisfied that the majority of the travel expenses in question were legitimate expenses and dispersed properly; however, the remainder of the expenses⁴ in question were inappropriately charged to the grant. The university agreed to reimburse the NSF for those charges. Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ footnote redacted

² footnote redacted

³ footnote redacted

⁴ footnote redacted