



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-12100069

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We received an allegation from a university system audit Office¹ that a Professor² from a university³ within the system may have violated conflict of interest rules and failed to disclose outside income from an NSF grant⁴ awarded to a non-profit.⁵ We agreed to work with the System Auditor to resolve this matter.

After obtaining documents and conducting various interviews, we determined that the non-profit was a first time awardee and agreed to work with the university as the sub-awardee on the funded project. The PI, who was a Professor with university and also coordinated projects with non-profit, was the author of the proposed project. The project had been delayed because the non-profit and university had not completed an agreement on how PI would work with the university as sub-awardee and the non-profit as the primary awardee. At the time of this review, no NSF funds have been expended on this project.

After our review began, the non-profit worked with the NSF Program Officer, with assistance from NSF's Office of Grants and Agreements, the university Office of Sponsor Programs to finalize an agreement for the PI and university to work on the project. The revised plan for this project included insurances that all possible conflicts would be fully disclosures and that the PI is accurately compensated for his time on this project without duplicating his salary from the university. The plan was approved by NSF.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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