

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

TO: AIGI	File Number: I97080040	Date: 02 March 2002
Subject: Closeout Memo		Page 1 of 1


There was no closeout written at the time this case was closed. The following information was extracted from the file in conformance with standard closeout documents.

Our office was informed that the subject¹ allegedly did not participate in an international collaboration as proposed, but spent all the grant funds. OIG reviewed grant financial documents which showed that all the funds were spent. OIG interviewed a foreign scientist, who had not come to the institution² to collaborate as was planned in the NSF award. Once the OIG review began, the subject did contact the foreign scientist and the collaboration began. The institution administration returned funds to the grant and insured that the grant project would be completed.

Accordingly this case is closed.

[REDACTED]

Name:	Prepared by:	Cleared by:		
	Agent:	Attorney:	Supervisor:	AIGI
Signature & date:				



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 30, 1997

To: File No. I97080040

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent, Investigations Section
[REDACTED] Special Agent, Investigations Section

Re: Close out -

Background/Allegation(s):

Our office received an allegation that a principal investigator (PI) at the University of [REDACTED] had received an NSF grant but had not conducted the work for the project. Our office investigated to see if [REDACTED] the PI, had fraudulently used these grant funds.

NSF awarded grant no. [REDACTED] in the amount of [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] on [REDACTED], 1994. For this project, NSF approved funding for a scientist from the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to travel to [REDACTED] and collaborate with [REDACTED]. NSF approved a budget that included [REDACTED] in participant support costs and foreign travel to cover the [REDACTED] scientist's expenses. NSF expressly stated in the award letter that the grantee could not change participant support costs or foreign travel costs without first consulting and receiving approval from NSF.

Investigation:

At the time we began our investigation in April 1997, the grant had already expired after receiving a no-cost extension which ended in December 1996. As of April, the collaboration had not occurred. In addition, all of the funds for this grant had been spent, including the funds for participant support and foreign travel.

Our office contacted the university and requested financial documents for the grant. Shortly after we contacted the university, [REDACTED] tacted the NSF program officer, citing concerns about the investigation and asking for another no cost extension, assuring the program manager that he [REDACTED] had made plans for the collaboration and it

would occur. NSF approved another no-cost extension, and the [REDACTED] scientist came to [REDACTED] 1997.

Recommendation/Conclusion:

We recommended to the university that it reimburse the grant account for [REDACTED], or a lesser amount if [REDACTED] could provide justification for a lesser amount. We also recommended that the university provide NSF with its oversight procedures, in writing, to insure that future grant expenditures are in accordance with NSF regulations. The university agreed with our recommendations.

This case is closed.