

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Closeout  
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OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 2, 2000  
To: File No. 199120047  
From: [REDACTED], Special Agent  
Via: [REDACTED], Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Subject: Case Closeout - [REDACTED]

**Background:**

On July 8, 1999, [REDACTED] (complainant) and her attorney, [REDACTED], spoke with NSF/OIG Investigations to relay information concerning the potential misuse or mismanagement of NSF funds at the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] University. Her allegations concerned fiscal mismanagement of \$350,000 from NSF award [REDACTED]<sup>2</sup> with [REDACTED] as the Principal Investigator (PI). The source of [REDACTED] allegation was [REDACTED] financial analyst, who told [REDACTED] in passing that there was a 'real problem with the budget, which they could not account for \$350,000'. There was a meeting between [REDACTED], Fiscal Manager, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], Executive Director, and no mention of the budget issues was ever raised to [REDACTED]. The complainant was not aware of the details of the unaccounted funds.

**Investigation:**

On July 9, 1999, OIG requested the Cooperative award [REDACTED] jacket for review. On September 1, 1999, the OIG Investigator, SA [REDACTED], requested the expenditure report for the Cooperative award.

On November 1, 1999, the complainant recontacted the SA [REDACTED] for further information about the allegations and related information that arose in her administrative

<sup>1</sup> The complainant was formerly the Director of Communications, [REDACTED], who was subsequently fired after [REDACTED] raised two complaints.

<sup>2</sup> Grant [REDACTED] entitled "[REDACTED]" began [REDACTED] and expires [REDACTED] (estimated), with an estimated total amount of [REDACTED] NSF Program Manager: [REDACTED]

proceeding. The complainant explained that the questioned cost category might be Student Outreach stipends. On November 2, 1999 OIG received a copy of the proceeding transcripts.

In order to further assess the institution's risk of mismanagement, on November 9, 1999, SA [REDACTED] requested a six-month judgmental sample of documented expenditures for travel, graduate support, student salaries, recruitment and seminars, and miscellaneous categories. OIG received the financial documents November 26, 1999.

**Findings:**

The review of expenditures over the six-month sample demonstrated no unallowable costs or overspent cost categories. Additionally, the complainant was not detailed about the allegation which she received second-hand from an employee's comment who later filed complaints against the complainant. Given the lack of findings, this case does not warrant interviews of [REDACTED] financial employees and a referral to OIG Audit. This case is closed.

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