

## Closeout Memorandum for M00060027 (redacted)

On 1 June 2000, a post-doctoral researcher<sup>1</sup> (complainant) sent a letter to OIG containing several allegations of misconduct in science and misappropriation of federal grant funds. A majority of the misconduct in science allegations involve a lengthy, acrimonious personal dispute between the complainant and a supervising professor<sup>2</sup> (subject). The primary complaint concerns alleged misrepresentations of the general living conditions at the university and surrounding community during the hiring process which brought the complainant to the subject's laboratory. These complaints do not qualify as misconduct in science.

In addition to complaining about the general living conditions, the complainant states the subject did not permit student mentoring, precluded the complainant from budgetary decisions, and possessed insufficient knowledge of a piece of equipment required for the NSF research project. The student mentoring complaint focuses on an employment contract with the university and accordingly is not a subject for our office. The budgetary decisions complaint is a professional relationship issue that does not rise to the level of misconduct in science. This is a personal issue best handled by the university. The complaint concerning the equipment is interesting for the simple reason the subject retained the complainant as a technical expert on this type of equipment in the first place.

Although the complainant's allegations of misconduct in science appear either suspect or simply do not concern our office, the complainant's letter contains two allegations of possible misappropriation of personnel salary and publications costs that could constitute fraud. Accordingly, this misconduct case is closed and an I-case will be opened to investigate the possible misappropriation of funds.

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<sup>1</sup> [footnote redacted].

<sup>2</sup> [footnote redacted].