

Closeout for M00080029

In August 2000, we learned that a PI¹ had recently submitted a proposal² whose Current and Pending Support (CPS) form appeared inconsistent with the CPS forms in his previous NSF proposals.³ The Program Officer⁴ had not received a satisfactory explanation from the PI about the inconsistencies. Because of the inconsistencies in the PI's disclosure of his CPS, it appeared the PI might be receiving more than 3 months of summer salary and that one of his NSF proposals was overlapping with an award from another agency.⁵

In his explanation to us, the PI said that a new secretary had made some of the errors, and that he did not carefully review the CPS form before submitting his proposals. His letter included a table with all the relevant grant information and explanations of errors in his CPS forms. He pointed out that his most current submission⁶ contained three errors and provided us and his Program Officer with a corrected CPS form. He said he has never received more than 3 months of summer salary, and his table supported his statement.⁷

He explained the history of the two similar proposals and said there was no significant overlap between these two grants. We asked a Program Director⁸ with expertise in the area about the overlap, and he said that the NSF award had possible overlap with one of four research avenues in the other agency's award. Since the NSF award was funded first, there is no problem with his disclosure to NSF. Because of this, together with his correction of his CPS form, we are closing this inquiry and will take no further action on this case.

cc: Investigation, IG

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).

⁴ (footnote redacted).

⁵ (footnote redacted).

⁶ (footnote redacted).

⁷ As noted in an earlier documentation in this file, an OIG auditor said that if the university were complying with OMB Circular A-21, it would not pay a PI more than 3 months summer salary even if the PI had managed to obtain awards with more than 3 months summer support.

⁸ (footnote redacted).