



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Office of Inspector General

Case Closeout Memorandum

OIG Case Number I-24-0054-O | July 1, 2025

We investigated allegations made by a former Distinguished Professor (Complainant) at a university (University) that the University retaliated against him for making protected disclosures regarding gross mismanagement of a Federal grant, gross waste of Federal funds, and abuse of authority related to a Federal grant. Specifically, the Complainant alleged the University recommended he be dismissed, removed him as co-PI on two NSF awards (Awards 2 and Award 3), and threatened to withhold payment for the work he completed on NSF-funded awards (Awards 1-3). At all times relevant, the Complainant was an employee of the University for the purposes of the applicable statute.

Our investigation determined that the Complainant made protected disclosures to University officials, the NSF Program Officers (POs) of the three awards, and NSF OIG. The University provided testimonial and written evidence that it would have removed him from the NSF awards absent of his disclosures. The University recommended he be dismissed because the Complainant suspended his NSF-related course, failed to submit required performance materials, and disengaged from the three NSF awards by missing meetings and failing to perform award-related duties.

We provided our findings to NSF. NSF determined the Complainant's disclosures did not evidence gross mismanagement of a Federal grant, gross waste of Federal funds, abuse of authority or a violation of law, rule, or regulation. NSF also determined that even had the Complainant's actions qualified as a protected disclosure, the University would have taken the same actions in the absence of such disclosures.

This case is closed with no further action taken.