



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I10100049

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We investigated allegations that two Subjects¹ were receiving duplicate salaries from NSF grants and a foreign university². Our investigation revealed that the Subjects, who held tenured faculty positions at a U.S. university³ and served as PIs or co-PIs on NSF awards, simultaneously held full-time tenured faculty positions at a foreign university. The Subjects charged salary and foreign travel expenses associated with trips and time spent working overseas to the NSF awards. They failed to disclose their dual employment to NSF, the U.S. university, and the foreign university, and they made false statements regarding their dual employment.

Simultaneous to our investigation, the U.S. university conducted an internal audit, after which both Subjects returned funds associated with travel expenses charged to various grants administered by the U.S. university, and subsequently resigned from the U.S. university.

We referred the matter to the appropriate state Attorney General's Office for consideration. After accepting the referral for further investigation, the Attorney General's Office ultimately declined criminal action based upon the fact that one key witness was located overseas, and due to statute of limitations issues that arose.

Based upon our recommendations, NSF suspended and ultimately terminated the Subjects' remaining active award⁴, resulting in \$295,933 in funds put to better use. We also recommended NSF debar the Subjects for a period of 5 years; however, NSF declined to impose any period of debarment in the matter for either of the Subjects.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

