



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I14090039

Page 1 of 1

The Pilot Program for Enhancement of Employee Whistleblower Protection, 41 U.S.C. § 4712 (Pilot Program), provides whistleblower protections to employees of contractors and grantees who make certain protected communications relating to a federal grant or contract. Under the Pilot Program, we investigate such allegations and submit a report to NSF management, the complainant, and the grantee. NSF then determines whether there is sufficient basis to conclude prohibited reprisal occurred.

We investigated an allegation that a university¹ discharged a PI² in retaliation for expressing concern regarding a departmental policy which he felt inappropriately required an NSF award³ to pay for a graduate student to work as a teaching assistant. Our investigation determined that the university's policy did not contain such a requirement. Instead the students worked as teaching assistants in addition to completing their hours on NSF awards. As required by the Pilot Program, we submitted a report of our investigation of the alleged retaliation to NSF management. NSF reviewed the report and concluded that the university did not discharge the PI in retaliation for making a protected disclosure.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

