



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0012-O

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We initiated this case upon receiving information that a university department chair charged personal expenses to several Federal grants. The university's internal auditors identified the personal purchases and reviewed 10 years of the department chair's expenses. The internal auditors interviewed the department chair, who denied making the personal purchases but admitted that he fabricated documentation provided to the university in support of some of the expenses. The department chair resigned and returned more than \$50,000 to the university to cover the personal expenses. As corrective action, the university implemented stronger internal controls over its purchase cards and implemented university-wide training.

The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to pursue criminal charges against the department chair; however, the U.S. Attorney's Office entered into a civil settlement with the university, requiring the university to pay more than \$185,000 in restitution, nearly \$7,000 of which was returned to NSF. Another Federal agency debarred the department chair government-wide for six months.

Accordingly, this case is closed.