



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0093-O

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A complainant alleged she was retaliated against for reporting research misconduct. The alleged retaliation occurred during the complainant's consideration for tenure, during which the university conducted a reconsideration process to clarify evidence in the file. The complainant claimed she was discharged by her university (*i.e.*, when the reconsideration was initiated, the complainant was given a termination date in the event the reconsideration resulted in a denial of tenure); demoted (because her tenure decision was postponed by the reconsideration process); and otherwise discriminated against (because she served the longest pre-tenure time at the university).

Our investigation determined that the complainant made three research misconduct related allegations to the university against a graduate student over a period of three years. Each allegation of research misconduct was reviewed by her university and no action was taken.

We found evidence that she was timely considered for tenure. During the tenure consideration process, at a procedurally permissible point, her tenure file was returned for reconsideration and clarification based upon information contained in the tenure file relating, in part, to what occurred with the graduate student. In doing so, the university followed established policies and procedures and provided evidence that it had reconsidered other tenure files in the past. Following the reconsideration, the complainant was granted tenure, retroactive to when she would have received tenure had the reconsideration not occurred. Based upon the facts uncovered and the grant of tenure, we determined that the complainant had been neither discharged, demoted, nor otherwise discriminated against in the form of excessive pre-tenure time. As a result, NSF OIG no longer had statutory jurisdiction to investigate these allegations.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.