



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0083-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that a university had falsely certified the status of a co-PI in a proposal that was not funded. The co-PI was listed as having a foreign affiliation on the Cover Page and on the co-PI's BioSketch. However, within the proposal, the co-PI is explicitly listed as being a faculty member of the University, without mention of his foreign affiliation.

We confirmed the different affiliations of the co-PI in the proposal documents. Additionally, we found the co-PI was not listed on the University's web page as a faculty member. We contacted the University to ask about the inconsistent affiliation of the co-PI on the various proposal documents. The University explained the foreign affiliation was correct, but that it had made an offer of employment to the co-PI, which the co-PI had said he would accept in the next academic year, so the description within the proposal was anticipatory. We do not agree that anticipatory employment is equivalent to actual employment, particularly when certifying a proposal's accuracy to the federal government. We sent the University a letter advising it to exercise more care when certifying proposal accuracy to NSF. This case is closed with no further action taken.