



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I 15050023

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We received information from our Office of Audit that a university had numerous faculty members whose salary charges on NSF awards exceeded the normal two-month NSF limitation on senior-personnel salary, in some cases by significant amounts.

We opened an investigation of one principal investigator whose salary charges on two awards more greatly exceeded the NSF limitation than those of any other faculty member. We determined that the NSF program director on the award with more recent and extensive charges knew of complications in the project and approved the increased effort, though not always in writing and not always documented in NSF's award-records system. He also acknowledged the broad re-budgeting authority routinely exercised by institutions, but had concerns about large summer salaries.

We sought additional information from the institution about the PI's salary charges, and ultimately concluded that the institution could independently justify the additional effort and that it accurately accounted for the salary charges. The summer salary charges were within the range of permissible salaries under university policy.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.