



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0022-O

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We investigated an allegation from a university that proposals submitted on behalf of a principal investigator (PI), including one that was awarded, failed to include certain disclosures regarding current and pending support and appointment reporting requirements. The university provided evidence of a part-time appointment at a foreign university and foreign support, noting that both the appointment and support had ended while the university investigated the matter.

The award spending pattern reflected no unusual activity. Although there was a small amount of spending on unbudgeted international travel, it involved only one conference in a location not related to the subject's foreign affiliation. Additionally, during the investigation, we learned that the PI requested and received approval for a one-year unpaid leave of absence and was currently working as a professor at a foreign university. NSF had not been notified of this by the university. However, the university and PI ultimately disclosed the unpaid leave of absence and employment status to NSF. The PI confirmed to the Program Officer that the award was still ongoing and that he was still actively involved in the award via virtual meetings with the students conducting the research. The Program Officer approved the reporting and disclosures provided by the PI and the university.

We counseled the PI on the importance of accurate and complete disclosures to NSF regarding sources of support and appointments.

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