



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0035-O

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We investigated allegations that a university was mischarging grant funds and misrepresented membership eligibility information required to continue receiving an Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) award. We subpoenaed records from the university and worked with the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the district where the university was located to obtain additional records.

Records and interviews established that the university had charged improper expenses to several NSF awards and, in at least some cases, was charging awards funds based on funding considerations as opposed to charging each award only for expenses incurred for that specific project. The university ultimately agreed to pay over \$150,000 to settle certain mischarging allegations. It also revised its policies and enhanced its controls so that this would not happen again.

In addition, the university could not produce records to confirm that it received the minimum amount of membership contributions necessary to meet requirements for an I/UCRC award. It confirmed that it was revising its practices and policies to ensure this would not happen again. The university agreed to pay more than \$225,000 to resolve these allegations, as well as other outstanding cost mischarging concerns related to other NSF research awards.

This case is closed with no further action taken.