



The University of New Mexico

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MEMORANDUM

To: Terry Yates, Vice Provost for Research

From: Yvonne Cox, Interim Director, Internal Audit Department *Yvonne Cox*

Date: June 10, 2004

Subject: Computer Science Department Payroll Charges Report 2004-01

Enclosed is the above final report with your integrated response, which has been approved by the President of the University. Those who receive copies of this report package may not photocopy it, release it, nor reveal the contents, in whole or in part, without the advance written approval of the President of the University.

Audit reports will be posted on the Internal Audit Department's University website one week after the final report is issued. The full text of the reports will be made public except for information which could compromise individuals' rights, the security of University systems or impair a pending law enforcement investigation or proceeding.

Please contact the Internal Audit Department when corrective actions are completed so we can perform the follow-up review.

cc: Louis Caldera
Brian Foster
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Richard Holder
Joseph Cecchi
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Robert Veroff
Bill Britton
Wynn Goering

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT PAYROLL CHARGES

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

To determine if charges for work performed by a former professor at the Computer Science Department and research associates, who worked with him, were allocated to the correct University of New Mexico (UNM) accounts and if they were compensated for all of the hours they worked.

SCOPE

We reviewed pertinent University records and attempted to obtain other pertinent information to determine if expenses had been charged to improper University accounts and if the former University professor and research associates were owed any monies by the University. Part of our efforts included contacting the former University professor for any information that he could share with us. Our work covered the period of January, 2002 through May, 2002 because that is the period of time the former professor included in his claim.

BACKGROUND

The Vice Provost for Research requested the review because of a claim by the former professor. The former professor was a faculty member of the Computer Science Department and was a Principal Investigator for several sponsored research projects.

OPINION

We could not find records or information to substantiate the allegation that payroll expenses were allocated to improper University accounts or that compensation is owed by the University to the former University professor and/or research associates.

OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Note: Because of the brevity of this report we are not including an “EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.”

ALLOCATIONS AND VERIFICATION OF PAYROLL CHARGES

The former University professor submitted a reimbursement schedule to the University. The schedule shows claims for compensation for the professor and the research associates but the schedule does not clarify whether the amounts were already paid by UNM and need to be transferred to proper accounts, or whether the amounts were not paid by UNM.

We were not able to obtain information that shows that charges to UNM accounts were allocated incorrectly or that work was done by hourly workers for UNM and not paid. We are not pursuing pay allegedly not received by exempt employees because it is too difficult to verify, after-the-fact, what specific work was done by exempt employees. Also, it was the former professor’s responsibility, while at UNM, to assure that research associates were paid the UNM-established rates for the level of work they performed for UNM. The former University professor related to us that there were no improper charges to University accounts. He, however, did not respond to our request for information about any hourly employees who might have worked for UNM and not been paid by UNM.

Recommendation 1

We recommend that, because the professor has not provided any valid documentation or reasonable way for the University to verify the validity of his claims, UNM take no action in this regard.

Response from Vice Provost for Research

In light of the fact that the former University professor is unwilling to cooperate with this investigation, we have no choice but to accept the partial findings of the audit report and discontinue the investigation. There is no information in this report that requires further action.