

## **Memorandum**

**(Confidential)**

To: Pamela Chally, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Cc: John Delaney, President  
Rachelle Gottlieb, Vice President for Human Resources  
Shari Shuman, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Karen Stone, Vice President, General Counsel  
From: Julia Hann, Internal Audit Director  
Date: April 25, 2018  
Subject: Investigation #2018.08 Outside Activities – **Follow-up Engagement**

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### **Background**

On March 30, 2018 the Office of Internal Auditing (OIA) provided a memo identifying policy and travel discrepancies involving Christos Lampropoulos (Lampropoulos), Associate Professor for Chemistry. The previous memo dated March 30<sup>th</sup> included a detailed review of travel reimbursements from July 1, 2017 to current. The discrepancies were discussed and Lampropoulos reimbursed UNF for \$2,207.99, returned a check from UNLV of \$450.49 which OIA returned to UNLV and returned his University purchasing card. Due to the level of discrepancies noting possible violations to Florida State Statute 112.061(10), on April 11, 2018 the President requested OIA to widen the scope of the investigation to include a review of all travel. Notification was also provided to the UNF Board of Trustees Audit and Compliance Committee Chair.

### **Executive Summary**

From a review of Lampropoulos' travel July 1, 2012 through July 1, 2017, OIA identified three additional discrepancies. Lampropoulos did not comply with Florida State Statute 112.061(10), titled *per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons* (also included at the end of this memo) by claiming reimbursement from outside sources for charges UNF also reimbursed or paid on a University purchasing card (p-card). Specifically, as follows:

- Lampropoulos requested and received mileage reimbursement from University of South Carolina (USC) of \$298.00 to present a seminar. UNF paid \$163.82 for the rental car and gas.
- Lampropoulos requested and received travel reimbursement of \$821.92 from the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL). Many of these charges were either reimbursed by UNF or put on a University p-card. The total amount paid by UNF and reimbursed by LANL was \$787.39.
- Lampropoulos requested and received reimbursement from University of South Florida for a plane ticket to Tampa. The plane ticket was also purchased on his University p-card. Lampropoulos also claimed per diem for multiple meals, at least one of which was also paid by other sources. Expenses paid by UNF and other sources for this trip totaled \$338.20.

## University of South Carolina

In November 2016, Lampropoulos was invited to speak at University of South Carolina's, Department of Chemistry. The travel reimbursement (TR) (TR023135) stated "Dr. Lampropoulos traveled to USC to present a seminar to a group of faculty, and to establish/strengthen the collaboration with them, as part of the Research Corp. CCSA award." On 11/7/2016, Lampropoulos rented a car and drove to Columbia, South Carolina. Gas was purchased for the rental car on 11/8, 11/9, and 11/10. These charges totaled \$163.82. On 11/16/2016, USC approved and sent payment to Lampropoulos in the amount of \$298.00 for mileage to and from Columbia from UNF.

**Total overpayment \$163.82.**

## Los Alamos National Lab

In October 2015, Lampropoulos traveled to the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The TR (TR018494,) stated this was for Dr. Lampropoulos to take measurements in support of his Research Corp Award provided by a grant. The TR also stated LANL would cover his lodging but not parking while at the hotel so UNF would pay the hotel parking. UNF reimbursed Lampropoulos for mileage to and from the airport (\$25.82) in addition to the following items:

- Per Diem Meals totaling \$101.42
- Airfare from Jacksonville to New Mexico for \$483.20
- Parking at the hotel while at LANL \$30.00
- One dinner on the P-card for \$25.58 (one per diem meal was reduced by \$6.58 because this meal cost more than \$19)
- A Car Rental while at LANL for \$132.72
- Gas for the rental car in the amount of \$14.47

Lampropoulos received \$821.92 from LANL for the following in December 2015:

- Per diem meals for 10/27-10/30 in the amount of \$161.53 (LANL has a higher rate of Per Diem for meals than UNF)
- Airfare from Jacksonville to New Mexico in the amount of \$483.20
- Parking at the hotel while at LANL \$30.00
- A Car Rental while at LANL for \$132.72
- Gas for the rental car in the amount of \$14.47

**Total overpayment \$787.39**

## University of South Florida

Lampropoulos received an exception from the Controller's Office which allowed for blanket travel approval to include University of South Florida (USF), University of Florida and Florida State University for research purposes on a grant. Typically blanket travel approvals are allowed for travel within Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. John and Duval counties and updated annually. There were two discrepancies noted while under his blanket travel approval.

In January 2015, TR (TR015132,) Lampropoulos left on Wednesday 1/28/2015 and returned Thursday 1/29/2015 at 7:15 PM which the TR stated he stayed with a colleague. The TR stated these trips were planned so no classes were missed. However, according to UNF's master schedule, Lampropoulos was teaching General Chemistry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1/8-5/1 from 12:15-1:30 and 3:05-4:20. UNF travel policies state faculty must state when classes will be missed as a result of travel. The supporting USF documentation stated Lampropoulos was a speaker at a seminar, however his blanket travel authorization was granted for grant research purposes. A new travel authorization should have been submitted deeming a new purpose for travel and documenting classes missed.

Secondly, UNF paid for the following expenses:

- Per Diem Meals (dinner on 1/28, \$19, and breakfast \$6/lunch \$11 on 1/29) totaling \$36.00
- Mileage to and from Jacksonville International Airport totaling \$25.82
- Airfare paid on a UNF P-card totaling \$332.20

USF reserved and paid for a hotel room at the Wingate Inn for Lampropoulos on 1/28 which provides all guests with a complimentary breakfast. Travel procedures do not allow per diem for breakfast if provided by the hotel. USF reimbursed Lampropoulos directly for the airfare in February 2015 totaling \$332.20.

**Total overpayment \$338.20**

## Florida State Statute 112.061(10)

*"FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.—Claims submitted pursuant to this section shall not be required to be sworn to before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths, but any claim authorized or required to be made under any provision of this section shall contain a statement that the expenses were actually incurred by the traveler as necessary travel expenses in the performance of official duties and shall be verified by a written declaration that it is true and correct as to every material matter; and any person who willfully makes and subscribes any such claim which he or she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, or who willfully aids or assists in, or procures, counsels, or advises the preparation or presentation under the provisions of this section of a claim which is fraudulent or is false as to any material matter, whether or not such falsity or fraud is with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present such claim, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.775.083. Whoever shall receive an allowance or reimbursement by means of a false claim shall be civilly liable in the amount of the overpayment for the reimbursement of the public fund from which the claim was paid."*

## Additional Travel Reviewed

The Office of Internal Auditing reviewed additional trips from 2012 through 2016 and made inquiries to determine if payments were made to Lampropoulos from other sources in addition to UNF. The following agencies were contacted. No responses were received from these agencies as of this report date.

- Patras University 7/21/2012-8/21/2012 (TR008375), \$241.35
- University of Cyprus 5/15/2013-8/23/2013 (TR008278), \$2,346.70
- NATO Science for Peace and Security 5/24/2016-6/16/2016 (TR022357), \$1,819.86. This travel reimbursement was for airfare purchased on a p-card. The request was inadvertently canceled in UNF's Travel and Expense (T&E) system when it needed final approval by Lampropoulos and the Department Chair. The office manager submitted the TR to Lampropoulos in June 2016 to review and submit further, however he did not complete his review. As a result, when someone new came into the Chemistry department in July 2017 and saw that this trip was encumbering funds, they requested this trip be canceled in T&E. Initially it was believed that Lampropoulos did not go on the trip, but Lampropoulos' website states he did. It also states he got a NATO grant to cover travel expenses.

If further information is made available at a later time, OIA will keep management apprised of any new information presented.

## Conclusion

Due to repeat travel discrepancies noted above with potential noncompliance to Florida State Statute 112.061(10) and in conjunction with memorandum from OIA to senior management dated March 30, 2018, we recommend consulting with the University Police Department and General Counsel to determine appropriate course of follow-up action.

Further, we recommend the University seek reimbursement for duplicate travel reimbursements **totaling \$1,289.41**, itemized as follows:

- University of South Carolina: \$163.82, 11/7/2016-11/10/2016
- Los Alamos National Lab: \$787.39, 10/27/2015-10/30/2015
- University of South Florida: \$338.20, 1/28-2015-1/29-2015