



CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15010003

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Closeout

We received an allegation that an NSF reviewer (Subject¹) took ideas from an NSF proposal that she was reviewing (Alleged Source²) and submitted them in her next NSF proposal (Alleged Target³).

We compared the two proposals, checking for verbatim text that had been inappropriately copied, but found only minimal matching text, mostly terms of art, proper nouns, etc. We also scanned the Subject's Alleged Target proposal for any generally plagiarized text and found only *de minimus* matching text.

We noted that the content of the two proposals was very similar and obtained a Subject Matter Expert (SME⁴) to analyze the methods, content, and ideas for the two proposals, as well as three other proposals of the Subject's,⁵ one of which she submitted before reviewing the Alleged Source. The SME concluded that the authors of both had ties to a third research group that focused on and spearheaded the area of research. He noted that there were similarities in approach, but the methodology was different and there was nothing to suggest the Subject copied ideas from the Alleged Source. Further, the Subject's proposal that predates her review of the Alleged Source contained very similar research propositions to those submitted after her review.

We therefore conclude that the allegation is not substantiated.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]