



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15010004

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We received an allegation that the subject¹ plagiarized material from another NSF proposal² into hers,³ thus also allegedly violating the confidentiality of NSF's merit review. The complainant noticed similarities in a proposal submitted by the subject and an earlier proposal submitted by a different PI (the PI). We note NSF's database shows the subject reviewed the PI's proposal approximately two months before submitting her proposal.

We reviewed the two proposals and concurred with the complainant that there were similarities in ideas and phrases. We wrote to the subject and asked about the similarities between her proposal and the one she reviewed. She denied taking any ideas or phrases from the PI's proposal, and she provided supporting documentation demonstrating she had the idea and began working on it with her university approximately nine months before being asked to review the PI's proposal.

We conclude the subject's response satisfactorily refutes the allegation. Accordingly, this case is ***closed*** with no further action taken.

1

2

It was declined.

3

It was funded.