



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A02080040

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In November 2001, we received an allegation that a junior faculty member<sup>1</sup> plagiarized text from a successful NSF proposal<sup>2</sup> into his own proposal. We asked the junior faculty member how he obtained the proposal, but he declined to identify his source. The university committee that conducted the ensuing investigation pursued this issue without success. We opened the matter for separate inquiry on August 16, 2002.

The review record indicated that a Professor<sup>3</sup> in the junior faculty member's department had served on a panel that reviewed the source proposal. We interviewed the Professor, who admitted having given the proposal to the junior colleague to serve as a model of a successful NSF proposal. The Professor expressed great remorse and promised never again to violate the confidentiality of NSF's merit preview process. In a strongly-worded letter, we reminded the Professor of reviewers' obligation to keep proposals confidential.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

<sup>1</sup> [redacted]

<sup>2</sup> [redacted]

<sup>3</sup> [redacted]

	Agent	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				