

# CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

**Case Number: A03010004**

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We received an allegation the subject<sup>1</sup> submitted a proposal<sup>2</sup> to NSF that contained ideas and materials from a graduate student's thesis without appropriate citation.

Our review of the subject's proposal showed that the subject cited the student's thesis<sup>3</sup> twice. The second citation included the recommendation that the reader see the student's thesis for a more comprehensive discussion of the particular work and related ideas. We contacted the complainant, the student's advisor, who explained that his student thought that the subject was planning to collaborate with the student in the future, which he did not do, and that parts of the subject's proposal sounded very much like the thesis.

We compared the text and figures in the thesis and the proposal. We found no plagiarized materials. We observed that the subject's proposed research area was many times larger than the area involved in the student's thesis. Further, the subject's NSF proposal was a much broader project than that presented in the thesis. Finally, the subject cited the thesis in the proposal, taking the additional step to encourage readers to review the thesis.

There was no substance to the allegation that the subject used anything inappropriately from the student's thesis. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

1 [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].  
2 [REDACTED], entitled "[REDACTED]," was submitted by the subject  
as the sole PI on [REDACTED]. The proposal was sent out for review to six reviewers on [REDACTED]. None  
of the reviewers were from [REDACTED]. However, it is not clear how the complainant learned of the proposal and that it  
did not contain any reference to the student's work.

3 [REDACTED] 66 [REDACTED]