



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04100061

Page 1 of 1

In October 2004, a Program Manager (PM) contacted us with questions about a proposal¹ he received. The PI had not included letters of support in a way that was accessible to reviewers, and one of the reviewers asked the PM about them. The reviewer expressed a concern to the PM about whether the PI was accurately representing his collaborations. Specifically, the dates on the letters were substantially earlier than the submission date of the proposal, and one of the letters indicated it was for a different research project, giving the appearance the PI had inappropriately used letters of support for a different project in this proposal. This was potentially significant because the PI was relying on one of the collaborators for material to use in his research. Following NSF's policy, the PM appropriately forwarded the reviewer's allegation to OIG.

The PI told us his letters of support accurately reflected his collaborations. He explained he had previously submitted a proposal to another Federal agency and, later that same year, to NSF.² That proposal was declined. The PI revised it, re-titled it, and resubmitted it to NSF with the previous letters of support. The PI provided additional support that the material the collaborator provided was indeed accessible to him for research on this project. Therefore, we conclude there is no support for the allegation; accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ (redacted).

² He appropriately disclosed on the Cover Sheet he had submitted this same proposal to another Federal agency.