



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A05670048

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that the subject's funded NSF proposal¹ contained text and ideas plagiarized from an NSF proposal² she submitted a year earlier as the sole PI while employed at another institution, the Company.³

We learned that the subject had been hired by the Company as a part-time writer to assist in the preparation of a Phase I SBIR proposal. The subject's supervisor at the Company worked on the project with the subject. The supervisor explained that the subject missed the NSF submission deadline for the NSF proposal by several hours, and, consequently, the proposal was returned without review. As a consequence, the Company released the subject. The supervisor explained, however, that the subject submitted the same almost identical proposal from ^{her} new institution about a year later.

We reviewed the subject's and the supervisor's proposal and award history. We compared all the relevant proposals submitted by both to see what, if any materials, may have been copied inappropriately. We noted that the subject's earlier NSF proposal submitted while at the Company was essentially the same as her later submitted NSF proposal from her present institution. However, because the subject was the sole PI on the earlier NSF proposal, the work was her work and she could use the materials again. If the subject's former employer, the Company, had other expectations and/or agreements governing what employees could and could not do with materials prepared and submitted in its name, then this is an issue for the Company to resolve.

We found no evidence that the subject copied any materials inappropriately. The subject used the materials submitted previously when she was the sole PI at the Company.

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

1

2

3