

## CLOSEOUT FOR CASE M-00030013

On 1 March 2000, the subject<sup>1</sup> called an NSF program manager<sup>2</sup> to ask how NSF would view something she had done. The program manager expressed concern about the subject's apparent conflict of interests and brought this matter to our attention. The subject, who was concerned about the program manager's reaction to what she had told him, called a another NSF program manager<sup>3</sup> to learn more about whether what she had done might be a problem.

The subject told us that she submitted an *ad hoc* review<sup>4</sup> for an NSF proposal,<sup>5</sup> a proposal she rated as very good. The proposal was funded. In her *ad hoc* review, the subject explained that she could not rate the proposal as excellent because she thought the PIs failed to include an important additional project in the study. She said that she had forgotten all about the proposal until one of her colleagues started to discuss some of the work already completed by the PI on the NSF award. At the next major conference, the subject introduced herself to the PI. She told him that she had reviewed his proposal and that, in her review, she had remarked on the proposal's failure to include the additional project. She said she asked the PI if anyone was doing this project. The PI said no and asked her if she would be interested. She said she would. She said the PI welcomed her participation if she could get her own funding. He offered to write her a letter of support, which she said he did. She explained that she submitted a proposal to do the project, but, because of NSF deadlines, she submitted it to another agency.<sup>6</sup> She said the proposal contained a letter from the PI in support of her participation on the larger NSF project.

The PI corroborated the subject's story. He said that after meeting the subject at the conference, he expressed the desire to find someone to do the project she had discussed in the review. He said that she expressed interest. He said she did not ask to be supported by the award, but agreed to seek her own funding. The PI said he provided her with a letter of support for her recent proposal application.

We concluded that the subject did nothing inappropriate. This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

cc: Integrity, IG.

<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED] a faculty member in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

<sup>2</sup> [REDACTED] is a program officer in [REDACTED]

<sup>3</sup> [REDACTED] is a program officer in [REDACTED]

<sup>4</sup> NSF received the subject's *ad hoc* review of [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

<sup>5</sup> NSF proposal [REDACTED] entitled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was submitted

by [REDACTED] PI, and [REDACTED] co-PIs, [REDACTED]

at [REDACTED]

<sup>6</sup> United States [REDACTED]