

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM FOR M99030017

On 30 March 1999, a program director¹ brought an allegation of misconduct in science to our attention. The program director provided our office with a copy of an unsigned letter received by a CEO of a small business² that contained information about the possible inappropriate use of previously submitted NSF proposals by an unidentified company. The unidentified company allegedly purchased proposals from NSF reviewers and used these purchased proposals to develop its own proposals to submit to NSF and other agencies. Within about a week, our office received similar letters sent to several other small businesses alleging similar inappropriate use of other scientists' proposals. Our review determined that at least one NSF award³ to a small business contained text that was identical to text in an earlier declined NSF proposal submitted by another small business. The matter is more closely related to civil/criminal investigations than to misconduct in science. Consequently, we are closing the misconduct case and opening a civil/criminal investigation.

cc: Investigations, IG

¹ [REDACTED] is a Program Director [REDACTED]

² [REDACTED] who works at [REDACTED] provided a copy of the letter received by [REDACTED]

³ NSF awarded proposal [REDACTED], entitled [REDACTED] submitted by [REDACTED] a research scientist at [REDACTED] contains text that is identical to text in NSF declined proposal [REDACTED], entitled [REDACTED] submitted by [REDACTED]