

## Closeout for M99110052

On November 12, 1999, a complainant<sup>1</sup> called to allege that a PI<sup>2</sup> had fraudulently elicited proprietary information from a collaborator<sup>3</sup> for the preparation of an NSF proposal<sup>4</sup> which included a compensated role for the collaborator. NSF did elect to fund the PI's proposal, but the collaborator learned from the PI that his participation would no longer be required or remunerated. As such, the complainant believed the PI had misappropriated the collaborator's material.

An examination of the program documents revealed that the PI's original proposal went through extensive revisions before it was awarded. Among these revisions was the removal of the component which featured the collaborator. The Program Director<sup>5</sup> for the award confirmed the accuracy of this interpretation. We concluded that the collaborator's elimination from the award was rooted in a programmatic decision, rather than any deception on the part of the PI.

The complainant also expressed general concern regarding unauthorized use of the material the collaborator had provided to the PI. However, he was not cognizant of any evidence demonstrating such wrongdoing. The complainant indicated that the collaborator would be attempting to resolve this matter directly with the PI.

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

cc: Integrity, IG

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3 Footnotes Redacted

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