



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0068-O

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An NSF reviewer breached NSF proposal confidentiality in violation of his obligations as a panelist and *ad hoc* reviewer by providing NSF proposals to graduate students in his laboratory and instructing them to provide written reviews. The NSF reviewer used significant portions of the graduate students' written reviews in 12 proposal reviews he subsequently submitted to NSF. The NSF reviewer did not obtain prior permission from the cognizant program officers to share the proposals. We recommended NSF send a letter of reprimand to the NSF reviewer notifying him that he violated NSF's proposal confidentiality rules and bar him from serving NSF in an advisory capacity, including as a panelist or *ad hoc* reviewer, for an appropriate period of time.

NSF prohibited the NSF reviewer from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 2 years and instructed him to disclose the NSF prohibition to other Federal agencies upon request to review proposals.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.