



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0020-O

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A complainant alleged a PI (Subject 1) and co-PI (Subject 2) plagiarized when they submitted a proposal (Proposal 1) without including a collaborator (the Collaborator) as co-PI. The complainant said the material in Proposal 1 was based on material in a previously submitted proposal (Proposal 2) on which the collaborator was the PI, Subject 2 was co-PI, and Subject 1 was listed as Senior Personnel. The complainant highlighted identical text in both proposals.

Proposal 1 does not appear to be separable, that is, the proposal appears jointly written. As such, any of the original authors may reuse the words in future projects. Furthermore, the Collaborator appears in Proposal 1 as Senior Personnel. Thus, there is insufficient substance to sustain an allegation of plagiarism in the submission of Proposal 1. Accordingly, this case is **closed** with no further action taken.