



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0050-O

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This investigation was initiated pursuant to an allegation that employees of a university retaliated against a graduate student funded by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, after the graduate student reported discrimination on the basis of national origin, potential plagiarism of her NSF Graduate Research Fellowship work, and abuse of authority related to the NSF-funded work to university personnel and to NSF. The alleged retaliation consisted of the filing of an internal university complaint against the graduate student by another graduate student who collaborated with her on a project, and interference in an authorship dispute by a university faculty member who advised the collaborator. We reviewed the allegations and determined that our office does not have jurisdiction to investigate the retaliation claim under 41 USC § 4712 because the alleged retaliatory acts were not, under the circumstances, adverse personnel actions taken by university management, and because the grantee institution ultimately dismissed the internal complaint as groundless and took no action against the complainant.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed.