

This case was received on March 8, 1990. [redacted] at the [redacted] in [redacted] sent several allegations to [redacted] in the NSF Division of [redacted] who forwarded them to OIG. They concern [redacted] at the [redacted] University.

OIG was able to resolve the allegations by writing to the complainant and to the subject with specific questions and analyzing the responses and also by examining internal NSF records.

One allegation was that the subject was using a computer-produced figure in a proposal to NSF that really was the intellectual property of the complainant. OIG found that the figure had appeared in a published paper authored by the subject and the complainant, among others. The figure was included in the part of the proposal that reported work done in the subject's laboratory under prior NSF grants, and it duly cited the paper. OIG found that the subject acted properly in using the figure in this way, even without asking the complainant's permission.

Another allegation was that an NSF program officer had a conflict of interest in handling proposals from the subject. OIG found that the program officer had given due notice of his conflict of interest with the subject's institution and had not handled any of the subject's proposals.

A third allegation is that the complainant had been forced to rent a house from the subject, which was an abuse of the subject's professional control over the complainant and a financial conflict of interest. This allegation was found to be unsupported.

Other complaints were found to be personal disputes or technical matters that properly fall within the scope of the peer review process, rather than misconduct matters. As a result, the OIG inquiry found all the allegations to be without merit, and the case was closed.

[redacted]

[redacted]
September 19, 1990

Concur: James J. Zwickel
9/21/90

