

Closeout of M91010008

This case was brought to OIG on January 25, 1991 by [REDACTED] a program officer in the [REDACTED] Program. He noted a problem that had come up in connection with a proposal submitted to his program two years ago by [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Department, University [REDACTED]. A reviewer, [REDACTED], claimed that she had not agreed to collaborate with the proposal author as described in the proposal.

OIG finds that the proposal in fact includes a plan to use an unpublished research method developed by the reviewer. The proposer intended to collaborate with the reviewer and stated that she had expressed an interest in such collaboration. Alternatively, the proposer had planned to wait until the reviewer had published the method.

We find that the proposer's course of action at most expresses a misunderstanding of the reviewer's intentions or an optimistic expectation of when the reviewer would publish. However, it raises no question of misconduct. Since the proposal was withdrawn and not funded, there will be no problems about the subsequent cooperation of these two individuals under this proposal. Consequently, this case can be closed with no further action on the part of OIG.

Donald E. Buzzelli
Donald E. Buzzelli
March 7, 1991

William J. Zwick
3/7/91

Copy: Inspector General

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