CLOSEOUT FOR M93030018

OIG received a letter from the complainant, [redacted], on March 16, 1993. [redacted] is the Director of [redacted] His proposal [redacted] " had been declined. He requested and received reconsideration of his proposal by the Assistant Director of the Directorate for [redacted] and then, on further appeal, by the Deputy Director of the Foundation thereby exhausting the NSF reconsideration process (NSF Manual 10, section 142).

The complainant alleged that the declination and reconsideration decisions were wrong, that the program staff and Assistant Director were professionally unqualified to evaluate his proposal, that the NSF Affirmative Action Officer was irresponsible, and that someone was attempting to steal the work in his proposal. OIG reviewed the proposal jacket and found that the proposal had been declined on the basis of external reviews that were extremely negative. The reviews strongly questioned the merit of the proposal and the qualifications of the PI. Different NSF officials reviewed the proposal jacket in each reconsideration process and independently recommended that the declination be upheld.

OIG's review of this jacket did not uncover any evidence to support the complainant's allegations. The proposal's processing and review and both reconsideration processes complied with NSF's Manual 10, The Proposal and Award Manual (PAM). OIG found that the complainant had communicated numerous times, by letter and telephone, with the program staff and NSF officials. Many of these communications contained inappropriate remarks that were personally and professionally disparaging toward NSF personnel. OIG found that the NSF correspondence with the PI was proper and professional throughout.

OIG could find no substance to the complainant's allegations. This case is closed without a finding of misconduct.

[redacted]

March 31, 1993

Concurrence:

Donald E. Buzzelli 4/6/93
Donald E. Buzzelli
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

James J. Zwolenik
James J. Zwolenik
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

Philip L. Sunshine
Philip L. Sunshine
Deputy Inspector General

cc: Assistant Inspector General for Oversight
Inspector General

93-18