



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-22-0013-O

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Our office received an allegation of plagiarism in a funded NSF proposal submitted by a PI and co-PI. The complainant alleged that the co-PI appropriated content and ideas from the complainant's confidential tenure review materials and incorporated these ideas into the NSF proposal and publications that acknowledge NSF funding. The complainant notified the PI and co-PI's institution, and it conducted an inquiry. The institution provided us with its inquiry report.

The institution concluded that a full investigation was not warranted. It found that a) the complainant shared her research idea with the PI and co-PI in an academic seminar prior to the tenure review, and b) the complainant provided the co-PI a copy of her survey instrument with the knowledge that the PI and co-PI were pursuing related research. The institution found that the PI and co-PI cited the complainant in the NSF proposal. It further found that the only verbatim language in the complainant's survey instrument and the PI and co-PI's survey instrument was select questions that were technically constrained. Subsequent publications acknowledge the complainant in addition to citing her published work.

We independently reviewed the evidence, and we similarly concur that an investigation is not warranted. We sent the PI and co-PI a warning letter reminding them about the importance of appropriate citation, including personal communications, in NSF proposals.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.