



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0031-O

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We received allegations that an NSF reviewer violated NSF merit review confidentiality by sharing seven proposals with two graduate students and instructing them to provide written reviews. It was further alleged that the reviewer then submitted to NSF reviews the graduate students wrote, with only minor modifications.

During the investigation, the reviewer admitted he shared the proposals with the students, but said he independently reviewed and drafted his own proposal reviews. The evidence, however, supported the allegation that the reviewer's submissions to NSF were the slightly-edited, student-written reviews. We further determined that the reviewer's answers to our written questions were misleading and were contradicted by other records, suggesting that he was less than forthright.

We recommended NSF send a letter of reprimand to the Subject notifying him that he violated NSF's proposal confidentiality rules and prohibit him from serving as an NSF reviewer.

NSF accepted our recommendations and prohibited the reviewer from serving as an NSF reviewer for four years. It also stated the reviewer should inform other agencies requesting his service as a reviewer of this prohibition.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.