Closeout of M91060027

This case arrived in OIG on June 25, 1991. It came from the Division Director in the He forwarded a memo from the Division Director in the division, the complainant. The complainant had noticed that a proposal submitted to the the program contained long sections that were the same as those in an earlier proposal submitted to another program by another investigator. The subject was for the the proposal.

OIG wrote to the subject and requested an explanation. The subject replied that he had been a graduate student in the laboratory of the other investigator. They had worked together on the subject matter of both proposals. With the senior investigator's permission he had revised the earlier proposal, which had been rejected, taking into account review comments, and had submitted it to NSF under his own name. The senior investigator had agreed to this arrangement and had agreed to serve as a consultant on the project if it was funded. The subject provided a letter from the senior investigator indicating his agreement to participate and to have his proposal used by the subject.

OIG agreed that this explanation and documentation cleared the subject of any charge of plagiarism. The subject was encouraged to indicate more clearly the authorship of future proposals. OIG concluded that the subject had not violated any NSF regulations and closed the case.

Copies: Inspector General Assistant Inspector General for Oversight