



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A03060036

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The allegation in this case is a breach of panel review confidentiality. A call was reportedly made by a principal investigator (PI)¹ to an NSF program officer² about the status of his proposal,³ with apparent knowledge by the PI of its competitive ranking in a panel that had concluded the previous day.⁴ The program officer brought information about the call to the program officer who ran the panel, who confirmed the ranking of the proposal from the panel that met the previous day.

The PI whose proposal was considered by the panel admits making the call to the NSF program officer, but claims only to have talked with the program officer in general about the chances for funding of his proposal. The PI does not admit to knowing any confidential panel review results. None of the panel reviewers contacted indicate that they discussed the panel review results outside of the panel.

In the absence of admission by a panelist or the supposed recipient of confidential information, the existence of a breach of review confidentiality cannot be established.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

¹ Redacted

² Redacted

³ Redacted

⁴ Redacted