



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04-48

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An NSF PO¹ forwarded a concern to us from a peer reviewer² that the vita of an individual³ listed as a member of the advisory board, in a proposal⁴, was outdated and was a photocopy and it was questioned whether the proposed member of the advisory board was ever actually contacted to perform this function as part of the grant.

We wrote to the subject⁵ and he admitted that he had not contacted the individual before listing her as an advisor nor did he obtain her permission to use her vita in the proposal. He stated that he had contacted the other four advisors. He said the individual had agreed to be an advisor in a previous Federal proposal and therefore he added her to the list of advisors.

The subject did include a copy of an older proposal to another Federal agency that did include the individual as an advisor. We contacted the individual whose vita was used without permission and she said that a few years ago she believes she was contacted by the subject to serve as an advisor on a grant, however, she did state that she knew for certain that she had not agreed to serve in an advisory capacity for the most recent NSF proposal.

Given the statements of the subject and the individual, it appears reasonable that the subject did contact the individual a few years ago and that she may have agreed to serve in an advisor capacity on the subjects proposal to the other Federal agency. This explains how he obtained a copy of the individual's vita and why he used it.

Although this action is a deviation from accepted practices, it does not warrant any further action. We have written the subject a letter and reminded him of the scholarly standards that NSF expects in all aspects of a proposal and take no further action.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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[Redacted text]