



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13020022

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After reviewing an allegation of plagiarism in an awarded NSF Proposal,¹ we referred an investigation to the Subject's University.² The University did not find his claims of ignorance of quotation marks believable. The University concluded that the Subject recklessly plagiarized into his NSF Proposal and took actions to protect University interests.

Our investigation concluded that the Subject knowingly plagiarized. As standard procedure for an allegation of research misconduct involving an NSF award, we also interviewed the cognizant Program Officer³ (PO). The PO determined that the plagiarism was material to the funding decision. Based on that determination, we made an interim recommendation that NSF suspend the award, which NSF implemented.

We thereafter presented the matter to NSF as a research misconduct referral, and in addition to recommending actions to protect NSF interests based on a finding of research misconduct, we also recommended NSF terminate the grant early and recover the award money already spent. NSF imposed almost all of the sanctions we recommended, but made no decision regarding recovery of the award money. The award expired shortly thereafter, while suspended, leading to about \$80,000 of unspent award funds being put to better use.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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