



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13100087

Page 1 of 1

### Closeout

We received an allegation that a PI (Subject 1)<sup>1</sup> plagiarized in an attachment to an annual report to NSF.<sup>2</sup> In his response to our inquiry letter, Subject 1 said that his graduate student (Subject 2<sup>3</sup>) had written the portion with improperly copied text.

We referred the investigation to the University.<sup>4</sup> The University found that Subject 1 had asked Subject 2 to scan his contribution to the annual report with plagiarism software, which detected a small amount of copied text. Subject 1 asked Subject 2 to rewrite flagged portions and to increase citations. Subject 2 told Subject 1 that he had rewritten flagged text, but concealed that much more verbatim copied text remained undetected. Subject 1 additionally scanned Subject 2's section and the software did not detect a larger section of copied text. Because Subject 1's scan did not reveal the substantial amount of copied text and because Subject 2 stated that he had rewritten those few portions that did, Subject 1 was satisfied and submitted the annual report.

The University concluded that Subject 2 committed plagiarism, for which Subject 1 did not share culpability. The University required that Subject 2 complete four types of training in the Responsible Conduct of Research. We concurred with the University's decision and submitted a report to NSF recommending actions to protect NSF interests. NSF made a finding of research misconduct and issued a letter of reprimand that required Subject 2 to comply with the actions imposed by the university.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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