



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14010002

Page 1 of 1

NSF OIG received an allegation of plagiarism related to two significantly similar NSF proposals submitted by different individuals from different campuses of the same institution.¹ Our inquiry found that the PIs² co-authored the text for their previously funded NSF proposal³ and therefore did not commit research misconduct by reusing their own text.⁴

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

¹ The proposals, individuals, and institutions involved were:

; and

²

³

⁴ Regarding the parallel submission of significantly similar proposals, one of the PIs explained that the PIs “decided the administration of the project would be more efficient if each campus and each PI were responsible only for the student participants at their respective campuses” and thus they “collaborated to create two independent projects, as described in the proposals....” This approach overlooked or underestimated the potential for an outside party to suspect plagiarism based on the textual similarities. We will recommend to the program officer that outreach to the PIs regarding more appropriate ways to handle this type of submission might be useful.