



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15020006

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in a Proposal a PI (Subject) submitted. We reviewed the Proposal, concluded it warranted an investigation, and referred the matter to the University.

The University concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence standard, that the Subject committed plagiarism, at least recklessly but sometimes knowingly or intentionally, which it deemed a significant departure from accepted practices. It further found that the Subject had a pattern of plagiarism in other grant proposals and in one conference paper. The University required the Subject to take online responsible conduct of research training and, for four years, submit all proposals to plagiarism detection software and provide evidence of this review to a University official before proposal submission.

We concluded the Subject acted with knowing intent. Our review of the policies of relevant professional societies and journals determined that the Subject violated the accepted practices of his research community by not properly acknowledging text authored by others. Therefore, we concluded the preponderance of the evidence proved the Subject knowingly committed plagiarism that constituted a significant departure from the accepted practice of his research community, and hence, that the Subject committed research misconduct.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the Subject; send him a letter of reprimand; require he submit certifications and assurances for two years; and require he certify completion of an interactive responsible conduct of research training program within one year. NSF's Acting Chief Operating Officer concurred with our recommendations and took actions to implement them.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.