



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A15040029

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We reviewed an allegation that two NSF proposals contained copied text. The first proposal had a sole PI; the second proposal listed three co-PIs. In response to our inquiry letter, the PI took responsibility for the text in the first, but stated the second proposal was a collaborative effort. After we wrote to the other collaborators, one took responsibility for copying from two sources, but not the small amount remaining. Another co-PI believed that an unnamed student authored much of the second proposal. Given the generally small amount of copied text by each person, we concluded this matter did not warrant a full investigation into possible research misconduct. Nevertheless, we sent warning letters urging better attribution to the PI and to the co-PI who admitted copying, including a warning to the PI that if the student authored much of the second proposal, that student should have been listed as an author.

This case is closed with no further action taken.