



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0004-O

Page 1 of 1

We investigated an allegation that the Subject, a former NSF Program Officer (PO), plagiarized a declined NSF Proposal (Source Proposal) in his own NSF Proposal (Proposal). We determined that the Subject had been the NSF PO responsible for handling the Source Proposal. We wrote to the Subject, who stated he could not explain the similarities.

We referred an investigation to the Subject's university, which concluded that the Proposal contained text plagiarized from the Source Proposal. However, the university determined it could not prove who committed the act.

We concluded that a preponderance of the evidence supported a finding against the Subject, who had access to the Source Proposal as PO. We reported our conclusion to NSF, which proposed to debar the Subject for 2 years and made a finding of research misconduct against the Subject. The Subject appealed both. He also resigned his university position.

NSF reached an agreement with the Subject that included a Voluntary Exclusion from government-wide funding for 2 years. In addition, NSF:

- a. Required the Subject to complete training in the Responsible Conduct of Research within 1 year of submission of another proposal to NSF;
- b. Required the Subject to submit certifications and assurances to NSF for 6 years;
- c. Barred the Subject from serving as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, consultant, or any other position at NSF for 6 years.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.