



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0067-O

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OIG conducted an inquiry into an allegation that a PI and Co-PI submitted a Proposal containing copied text. The inquiry determined the PI was responsible for the plagiarism, and we referred a research misconduct investigation to the PI's institution.

The institution's investigation concluded, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI knowingly committed plagiarism, which it deemed a significant departure from accepted practices. The institution required that the PI 1) take online responsible conduct of research training; 2) submit all external funding proposals to plagiarism detection software and provide evidence of this review to his department head and research office, for 3 years; and 3) submit all external funding proposals on which he is PI to the research office at least 7 calendar days before the submission deadline, for 3 years.

Our office adopted the institution's findings and further determined the PI exhibited a pattern of plagiarism. We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the PI; send him a letter of reprimand; require that he submit certifications and assurances for 1 year; require that he certify compliance with the requirements imposed by the institution as a result of its investigation; require that he complete responsible conduct of research training; and bar the PI from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 1 year.

NSF's Chief Operating Officer (COO) made a finding of research misconduct, sent the PI a letter of reprimand, required the PI to certify compliance with his institution's requirements, and barred the PI from serving as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 1 year. The COO, however, did not require the PI to submit certifications or assurances or complete responsible conduct of research training.

Accordingly, this case is closed.