



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0081-O

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OIG conducted an inquiry into an allegation that a PI copied text into an NSF proposal from an unpublished white paper he received while a program officer at another federal agency. We referred the matter to the PI's institution which concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI intentionally committed plagiarism, and deemed it was a significant departure from accepted practices. It also concluded that the Subject's actions "had a significant, adverse impact" on the university and other researchers. The institution debarred the PI from applying for federal funding and from mentoring postdocs, appointed a substitute PI for his active NSF award, and appointed substitute mentors for postdocs funded by that award. The institution did not terminate the PI's employment because he had already resigned.

We concurred with the institution's findings and recommended NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the PI; send him a letter of reprimand; debar him for one year; require he complete responsible conduct of research training; require he submit certifications and assurances for four years; and bar him from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for four years.

NSF's Chief Operating Officer accepted our recommendations, but increased the period for certifications and assurances to five years and the period for barring participation as a peer reviewer/advisor/consultant to six years. The Subject filed an appeal, but the agency upheld its findings and actions.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.