



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0041-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in a proposal submitted by a PI and two co-PIs. Our inquiry determined the PI was responsible for the portion of the proposal that contained the copied text, and the PI's explanation for the copied text did not dispel the allegation. Thus, we referred an investigation to the University.

The University conducted an extensive plagiarism review of the Subject's proposals and publications and found several more instances of plagiarism. The University made a finding of research misconduct against the PI and barred him from submitting proposals for 2 years. Ultimately, the University did not renew his contract.

We conducted an in-depth plagiarism analysis of three additional proposals identified by the University as containing plagiarism. In two of those proposals, an entire section was copied verbatim from an awarded NSF proposal. We recommended NSF make a finding of research misconduct and debar the Subject for 1 year. We also recommended NSF bar the Subject from serving as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 4 years and require him to submit certifications and assurances with each document submitted to NSF for 4 years. NSF concurred with our finding but did not debar the Subject. NSF also barred the Subject from serving as a reviewer for only 2 years and required only 2 years of certifications and assurances.

This case is closed with no further action taken.