



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0045-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in a proposal with a PI and co-PI. We sent both the PI and co-PI inquiry letters. Through an attorney, they asked us to refer the investigation directly to the University, and we did so. The University learned that the proposal had been previously submitted, and the earlier version of the proposal contained the same copied material.

The University also identified material copied from two additional sources. Both the PI and co-PI stated that they had marked the copied text in the original draft with the intention of later going back and paraphrasing. The University had access to the original versions of the proposal and found no evidence of the marks. Further, the University determined that the PI was responsible for the majority of the copied material, and that the co-PI was only responsible for 10 lines of copied text.

The University made research misconduct findings for both the PI and co-PI. We determined that the amount of plagiarism the co-PI was responsible for does not warrant a finding of research misconduct, and we sent her a questionable research practices letter. We concurred with the University's findings for the PI. We recommended NSF make a finding of research misconduct; bar the PI from serving as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 1 year; and require the PI to submit certifications and assurances with each document submitted to NSF for 1 year. NSF concurred with our finding and recommendations.

This case is closed with no further action taken.