



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0072-O

Page 1 of 1

A university informed us they received an allegation that a professor was writing scientific research statements that were subsequently submitted by her students to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Proposal (GRFP) program. The allegations specifically named six students whose research statements were allegedly written by the professor.

The university conducted an inquiry into the matter. They interviewed the professor and reviewed the six GRFP proposals, emails from the professor's university email account, and documents provided by the professor. In her interview, the professor stated that students develop a first draft of the research statement and that she encouraged students to share those statements between themselves for first edits. She stated that while her subsequent editing varies by student, she vehemently denied ever writing the statements for students.

The university's review of the documentary evidence indicated editing of some research statements did occur. However, the evidence supported the professor's claim that she did not write the research statements herself.

Based on our review of the university's inquiry report, we concur with the university's conclusions.

This case is closed with no further action taken.