



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0097-O

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We investigated an allegation that a PI submitted an NSF proposal with plagiarized text. The PI told us that the text at issue was only in the proposal's background section. He claimed that because some of the sources were referenced and cited, he "did not use quotation marks or indentation." We noted the citations did not follow the copied text.

The PI's university investigated the matter and concluded he plagiarized. The university required 2 years of mentorship and monitoring by the university's office of research.

Based on our review of the evidence, we concluded the preponderance of the evidence demonstrated the PI knowingly committed plagiarism. We recommended NSF:

- a. Make a finding of Research Misconduct;
- b. Require the Subject to complete training in the Responsible Conduct of Research within 1 year of submission of another proposal to NSF;
- c. Require the Subject to submit certifications and assurances to NSF for 1 year; and
- d. Prohibit the PI from serving as a reviewer, consultant, or advisor for NSF for 1 year.

NSF made a finding, issued a letter of reprimand, and imposed all our recommendations.

This case is closed with no further action taken.