



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0005-O

Page 1 of 1

Our office received an allegation of plagiarism in two significantly similar NSF proposals submitted by a PI. We contacted the PI about the allegation. Her response did not dispel the allegation because she acknowledged copying material from the seven sources. We therefore referred the investigation to the PI's University.

The University investigation concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI recklessly committed plagiarism, and that the act was a significant departure from accepted practice of the PI's research community. The University required that the PI complete online plagiarism training and submit a training certificate; that the PI work with a senior department member to ensure future grant applications contain no plagiarism; that the University keep on file a copy of the report and adjudication materials; and that the University develop training for new full-time faculty about avoiding plagiarism in grant writing.

We accepted the University's findings. We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the PI; send her a letter of reprimand; require she complete responsible conduct of research training; require she comply with her University-imposed requirements; and require she submit certifications for 1 year.

NSF's Chief Operating Officer concurred with our recommendations and added the requirement that the PI submit assurances for 1 year.

Accordingly, this case is **closed**.