

Dr. Z

Closeout of OIG 90-3107 (M90-01)

This case was received on January 5, 1990 from the program officer in the [redacted] program. The subject, [redacted], then in the Department [redacted] at the University [redacted], had submitted a proposal to that program. A reviewer noticed that six sentences in the Experimental Design and Methods section of the proposal were copied more or less verbatim from a published paper.

The subject was asked to comment on this allegation. His reply showed no comprehension of the issue. The institution was then asked to conduct a preliminary inquiry. They found that the subject had not directly attempted to mislead, but that he did not understand how to handle attributions and quotations. They did not recommend a full investigation. Since the subject had left the institution, there was no occasion to impose a penalty or ask that he be better instructed.

OIG agreed that the institution has done all that is required under the circumstances. The total extent of the plagiarism is not great, and it involves background material and broad research objectives rather than specific research methods or results. The inquiry has presumably helped the subject understand the requirement to give proper credit to sources, and the case can now be closed.

[redacted]

[redacted]
September 12, 1990

concur: James J. Zurembk 9/12/90
OK: MRL 17 Sept 90