



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0084-O

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We investigated an allegation that an NSF proposal contained plagiarized material. We found the PI (Subject) copied most of the proposal's supplementary documents from a previously awarded NSF proposal, making only small edits to the copied text. The Subject stated he did not know who pasted the text into his proposal.

The Subject's university investigated the matter and concluded the text was intentionally copied, as evidenced by the Subject's minimal edits to the source text. The Subject accepted responsibility for the plagiarized text, although he stated that due to a medical condition, he had no memory of the copying. The university made a finding and required training.

We accepted the university's determination and concluded that the Subject intentionally plagiarized. We recommended that NSF:

- a. Make a finding of research misconduct,
- b. Require the Subject to certify completion of the actions the university mandated as a result of its investigation;
- c. Require the Subject to complete an instructor-led responsible conduct of research course within 1 year;
- d. Require the Subject to submit certifications and assurances to NSF for 2 years; and
- e. Prohibit the PI from serving as a reviewer, consultant, or advisor for NSF for 2 years.

NSF accepted our recommendations and sent the Subject a Notice of Research Misconduct Determination. The Subject appealed. NSF determined that the appeal did not present sufficient information to rescind the misconduct finding. Ultimately, NSF imposed our recommended actions.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.