



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0049-O

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We received an allegation of plagiarism in two declined NSF proposals written by a PI. In his response to our inquiry letter, the PI acknowledged that he included inadequately cited text, but said most of the text constituted common knowledge or were online sources available for public use and lacked named authors. We concluded there was sufficient evidence to refer the matter to the PI's University for investigation.

The University investigation concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence standard, that the PI knowingly committed plagiarism, and that the act was a significant departure from the accepted practice of the PI's research community. The University warned the PI in writing that future plagiarism would result in disciplinary action, required the PI complete an online responsible conduct of research training course, and recommended the PI consult with mentors about best practices for citation.

We accepted the University's report in lieu of conducting our own investigation. We, too, concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence standard, that the PI knowingly committed plagiarism and that the act was a significant departure from accepted practices of his research community.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct; issue a letter of reprimand; require the PI complete interactive responsible conduct of research training; bar the subject from NSF participation as peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for 1 year; and require the PI submit certifications for 1 year. NSF accepted our recommendations and added 1 year of assurances.

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