



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-22-0016

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We received an allegation of plagiarism and falsification of a letter of support in an awarded NSF proposal submitted by a PI and a co-PI. The grantee University conducted an inquiry into allegations and concluded the PI's actions did not rise to the level of research misconduct. The University also reported updates to their responsible conduct of research faculty education plan, including incorporation of resources from NSF OIG's website.

We reviewed the inquiry report and confirmed a small amount of text appeared plagiarized and could have been cited more comprehensively. We concluded the PI's actions did not warrant a full investigation. We concur with the University that the PI was careless when uploading the support letter. We sent the PI a questionable research practice letter emphasizing the importance of appropriate citation and urging care when uploading proposal documents. Because the PI had objected to the complainant's contact with our office, we also included information about whistleblower rights and protections in our questionable research practice letter.

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