



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0026-O

Page 1 of 1

We initiated this case after a University shared a research misconduct inquiry report with our office. The University's inquiry included an allegation of data fabrication and/or falsification by a PI (Subject) in a declined NSF proposal (Proposal), in addition to numerous non-NSF-related research misconduct allegations. Another federal agency opened a case regarding a different allegation. We concurred with the inquiry conclusion that an investigation was warranted and referred the matter to the University.

The University's investigation had many delays. We sent a letter enumerating the delays and stating we would cease deferring our own investigation were the delays to continue. The University made multiple research misconduct findings, including a finding of data falsification and/or fabrication for the allegation involving the Proposal. The University also concluded that the Subject did not adequately maintain data, which it deemed a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community. The University imposed sanctions and disciplinary actions.

We reviewed the University's investigation report and evidence files regarding the Proposal data falsification and/or fabrication allegation. We determined no finding of research misconduct was warranted.

We sent the Subject a questionable research practices letter, encouraging more careful data management practices and closer attention to NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide. We also sent a questionable administrative practices letter to the University, encouraging tighter adherence to regulatory timelines.

This case is closed with no further action taken.