



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0003-O

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We received an allegation that a PI plagiarized content in a declined NSF Proposal (Proposal). We contacted the PI who took responsibility for the plagiarism and voluntarily admitted to additional plagiarism in a second NSF proposal. We referred an investigation to the University.

The University concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI recklessly committed plagiarism in both proposals and that the act was a significant departure from accepted practices. The University required the PI to take a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) course and informed him that he may be removed from his position if misconduct reoccurred.

We concurred with most of the University's conclusions but determined the PI knowingly committed plagiarism.

We recommended that NSF make a research misconduct finding, issue a letter of reprimand, require the PI to comply with the University requirements, and, for 2 years, require the PI to submit certifications and assurances and be prohibited from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant.

NSF concurred that the PI committed research misconduct and accepted our recommendations but decreased the requirements for certification and assurances and participation as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant to 1 year. The Subject appealed the requirement to submit assurances. NSF rejected the appeal.

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