



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0058-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that a PI plagiarized material from a job candidate's research statement into an NSF proposal (Proposal). Our review identified substantive copied text and figures from multiple sources, including the research statement, in the Proposal. We referred the investigation to the University.

The University's Investigation Committee (Committee) identified plagiarism in seven more NSF proposals and nine proposals submitted to five other Federal agencies. The Committee concluded the PI intentionally committed plagiarism in the NSF and non-NSF proposals, which it deemed a significant departure from accepted practices.

The University terminated the PI's employment and developed required responsible conduct of research (RCR) training for all research personnel, a new course for graduate students, and a mentoring series for faculty, staff, and students. The PI's college also required researchers attend an additional training.

We accepted the University's evidentiary record and overall conclusions but determined seven additional acts constituted plagiarism. We recommended NSF make a research misconduct finding, issue a letter of reprimand, require the PI complete interactive RCR training, debar him for 3 years, and, for 5 years, require the PI submit certifications and assurances, submit a mentoring plan, and be prohibited from participating as an NSF peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant.

NSF accepted and implemented our recommendations.

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