



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0063-O

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We conducted an inquiry into an allegation that an NSF proposal with one PI (Subject) contained inappropriately copied text from eight sources. It was the Subject's sole NSF proposal submission. Our review revealed that the proposal was written by a staff member of a research center within a university, with the Subject providing some feedback for the content. The staff member left the center just before the proposal was submitted, and the Subject was named as a PI. Though the Subject had viewed himself more as a representative on behalf of the center, and not the author, he nevertheless took responsibility for the plagiarism. We concluded it was problematic that the staff member was not credited as an author of the proposal.

Given the totality of the circumstances, including the amount of plagiarized text, we concluded this matter does not require a full investigation. However, we sent the Subject a Questionable Research Practice letter, reminding him of the importance of appropriate attribution and acknowledgement.

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