



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13020033

Page 1 of 1

Our review of an allegation of plagiarism in proposals submitted to NSF determined that a PI had copied approximately 180 lines of text into five separate proposals submitted to NSF.¹ We referred that matter to his institution for investigation. When interviewed by the investigation committee, the PI asserted that the text need not be quoted as long as a citation to the source was provided. The committee disagreed and determined that the subject committed plagiarism and his actions demonstrated a pattern. The university provost took the following actions: 1) issued a letter of reprimand; 2) prohibited the subject from writing grants for one year; 3) directed that the subject complete an online research ethics course within one year; and 4) required monitoring of the subject's grant writing for three years.

Based on the evidence, we concluded that the Subject knowingly plagiarized text into five NSF proposals and that these actions were a significant departure from the standards of the research community and, therefore, constituted research misconduct. We recommended that NSF 1) make a finding of research misconduct, 2) require the Subject complete a responsible conduct of research program, 3) impose two years of certifications and assurances for future documents submitted to NSF by the subject, and 4) bar the Subject for two years from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF.

NSF agreed with our recommendations with the exception that they imposed certifications and assurances for one year. Accordingly, this case is closed.