



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A04050024

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We received an allegation that the subjects' (PI and co-PI) NSF proposal¹ contained text copied without appropriate attribution from two source documents, an NSF workshop report (the Report) and an article.²

Our review showed a minimal amount of text appeared to have been copied, mostly verbatim, from the Report into the subjects' NSF proposal. Further, two phrases appeared to have been copied from the article into the subjects' NSF proposal. In addition, we found less than two sentences from the Report appeared to have been copied into the subjects' earlier NSF Pre-proposal,³ submitted as the first step with NSF to submit the later formal NSF proposal.

We observed the subjects listed the Report and the article in the "References section" of their NSF proposal. Also, the subjects listed the Report in the "References section" of their NSF pre-proposal. The sentences that contained the apparently copied phrases from the article contained a reference to the article. Finally, the text apparently copied from the Report involved statistic reported previously in earlier reports.

This case involves a minimal number of lines of apparently copied text. Given 1) the very limited nature of the copied text, 2) most of the copied text was taken from an NSF sponsored workshop report specifically held and published to assist community colleges, 3) the inclusion of the apparently relevant source documents for the text in the "References section" in each the proposal and the pre-proposal, and 4) the copied text consisted of already reported statistics that would not easily lend itself to innovative rephrasing, we determined that this matter does not rise to the level of a significant departure from accepted practices.

Accordingly, this case is closed and no further action will be taken.

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