



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13080083

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NSF OIG received an allegation of plagiarism in a proposal.¹ Specifically, it was alleged that the Subject² obtained another University researcher's previously awarded NSF proposal³ from the University's sponsored research office⁴ and copied its text into his Proposal.

We reviewed the Proposal and identified extensive copied text; however, the copied text was material that described the University and the general goals of the project rather than the project itself.

We referred the inquiry to the University. The University determined an investigation was warranted. We referred the investigation to the University. The investigation determined that although the Subject knowingly copied material from the previous proposal into his Proposal, he did so thinking he was authorized by both the previous PI and the University to use the text. The University did not make a finding of research misconduct, but did require the Subject provide certifications with each new grant proposal and take a responsible conduct of research course.

We concurred with the University's assessment that given the circumstances a reasonable person would not have believed he/she was plagiarizing. We determined that the actions the University took adequately protect NSF's interests in this matter. Additionally, we sent the Subject a questionable research practice letter, reminding him of the need to appropriately cite all text used in his proposals.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

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