



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14100059

Page 1 of 1

We conducted an inquiry into an allegation that a Subject<sup>1</sup> copied text without adequate attribution in one declined NSF Proposal.<sup>2</sup> Our review found the Proposal contained 112 lines copied from 13 sources. The copied material generally included citations before and after the copied text, but the text was not demarcated as verbatim. It comprised nearly three pages of the 12-page Proposal, and three pages of the five-page literature review. Our inquiry did not dispel the allegation against the Subject. We referred the investigation to the Subject's University.<sup>3</sup>

The University conducted an investigation and concluded, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the Subject, at a minimum, recklessly committed plagiarism. It deemed this a significant departure from accepted practices. It required that the Subject participate in a supervisory meeting to discuss the seriousness of his plagiarism; take training about plagiarism prevention; and submit to a University official for review all grant proposals for two years.

We reviewed the University's Report and concluded that it followed reasonable procedures and produced an acceptable evidentiary record. However, we disagreed with its assessment of intent. Accordingly, we adopted the findings in part and conducted our own investigation.

Our investigation concluded, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Subject knowingly plagiarized material in the Proposal, thereby committing an act of research misconduct. We did not identify a pattern of plagiarism.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct against the Subject; send him a letter of reprimand; require certification of compliance with University-imposed actions; and require submission of certification and assurances for two years. NSF's Chief Operating Officer made a finding of research misconduct against the Subject, sent him a letter of reprimand, and required submission of certifications to NSF that he fully complied with the University-imposed actions.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

1

2

3