



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0108-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that a PI plagiarized material in an NSF proposal. Our inquiry determined that the PI copied text from two awarded NSF proposals without acknowledgement. We concluded there was sufficient evidence to refer the matter to the PI's University for investigation.

The University convened a Committee that concluded the PI committed plagiarism but did not draw a conclusion about his intent. The University required the PI to complete training; work with a mentor; conduct student training; create a pre-submission review process; and be barred from submitting NSF proposals for 3 years, or 5 years if the other recommended actions remained incomplete.

We found the University Report to be neither accurate nor complete. Our independent investigation determined, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the PI intentionally committed plagiarism and that the act was a significant departure from accepted practices. We also determined that the PI provided inaccurate information during our investigation and that of his University.

We recommended that NSF make a finding of research misconduct; send the PI a letter of reprimand; debar the PI for 1 year; require that the PI certify his compliance with the requirements his University imposed as a result of its investigation; require that the PI complete a responsible conduct of research training program; bar the PI for 4 years from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant; and require that the PI submit certifications and assurances for 4 years.

NSF accepted our recommendations except for debarment.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.