



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0117-O

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We received an allegation that a Subject¹ submitted an NSF proposal (Proposal)² containing material copied from a different NSF proposal³ previously submitted by another researcher (Researcher).⁴

Our inquiry found that the Subject's Proposal did contain ideas similar to those in the earlier NSF proposal and that the Subject, when asked, acknowledged including the researcher's ideas without adequate citation. However, we found that the Subject referenced the other researcher's work (albeit inadequately), that the copied material was *de minimis*, and that the Subject said he had found the ideas online and not in the researcher's NSF proposal.

We referred an inquiry to the Subject's University.⁵ The inquiry committee determined the Subject's act constituted careless plagiarism and recommended that the Subject work with proposal development specialists to improve his proposal writing and citations skills.

We concurred with the University's assessment. We sent the Subject a questionable research practice letter, reminding him to appropriately cite material in his proposals.

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

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]