NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A-03040020

Page 1 of 1

In a previous case,[1] the subject[2] was found by NSF to have committed misconduct in science. In a letter dated 19 October 2001, NSF's Deputy Director notified him that "you must submit certifications to OIG, for two years, in conjunction with any documents you submit to NSF for which you have authorship responsibilities stating that, to the best of your knowledge, those documents contain no plagiarized material." In April 2003 we ascertained that 3 proposals had been submitted to NSF with the subject listed as PI or Co-PI, but we had received no certifications. Information provided by the subject as well as his dean[3] showed that they believed it was sufficient for the subject to comply with the requirement imposed on him by his university as a result of his misconduct, that he submit to the dean a signed cover page certification for every proposal submitted to any agency. The dean also provided evidence that the subject had substantially complied with this requirement.

The subject and the dean both claimed to have spoken with somebody in our office who informed them that compliance with the institution's requirement was adequate; however, neither indicated that they spoke with anyone in our office after the date of the Deputy Director's letter (it is inconceivable that we would tell anyone to ignore a certification requirement imposed by NSF). NSF's letter was sent to the subject, not to the subject's institution, and we concluded that the evidence provided by the dean reflected that the institution acted in good faith. Although the subject's utter failure to comply with the requirement imposed on him by NSF's Deputy Director did not reflect well on his integrity, we concluded that it did not warrant additional action by NSF. In a letter to him we urged the subject to take care to comply with the requirement with any proposals submitted to NSF before 20 October 2003.

Accordingly, this case is *closed*.

[1]
[2]
[3]