

Revised Memorandum of Agreement, 2022:

Jbf Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman Annual Prizes in Biological Sciences at University of Kashmir

### 1. Purpose:

To recognize and motivate faculty members for the outstanding research publications and teaching in class, and encourage students in academic and research excellence in Departments of Biological Sciences at University of Kashmir.

Teachers play the most crucial role in guiding and leading research. Without research and publications, there are no advances and the university will not be known outside. They also contribute the most to increase the number of graduating students with higher quality of education and research. There is always a limited number of top students in the class. Recognition will encourage them to continue their best effort for higher excellence. The rest of the class falls behind largely due to difficulties in grasping the subject materials. Motivated teachers can uplift the standard of the entire class by better teaching skill, being more helpful and providing positive inspiration, Then not only the top students the whole class will be benefited. Students, who are the direct beneficiary of knowledge, will be involved in the nomination.

This prize program will recognize annually faculty members for the best research and effort for teaching to raise the standard of the class, and Ph.D. graduating students for the best thesis.

### 2. Funding:

The prizes are funded by an endowment provided by sponsor Professor Sultana N. Nahar of the Ohio State University from her personal income. In March 2017, she provided US\$12000 during her visit at University of Kashmir and expressed intention to increase the amount to accommodate more winners. In September 2022, she will add another US\$12000 to the endowment in order to increase the number of prizes from 6 to 24. The endowment is expected to be invested under S.N. Nahar prizes trust but to an account of University of Kashmir in a bank for the maximum profit.

95% of the annual profit from the endowment fund will be used for the 24 annual faculty and student prizes, any overhead expenditure, and 5% of the profit will be added to the endowment.

### 3. Prizes:

Currently there are 8 Departments, i) Biochemistry, ii) Bioresources, iii) Biotechnology, iv) Botany, v) Clinical Biochemistry, vi) Microbiology, vii) Nanotechnology, viii) Zoology, under the Faculty of Biological Sciences of University of Kashmir, and each Department will have two faculty prizes and one student prizes, with

  
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a total of 24 prizes. The earlier proposal for the 6 existing Departments in 2017 recognized annually 3 faculty members and 3 graduating Ph.D. students from 3 Departments of Biological Sciences. The prizes were to be distributed in the two sets of 3 Departments, each set being recognized every other year. However, the purpose of the 2022 revision is to recognize 3 members of each Department every year.

Followings are the revised prizes:

- i) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Biochemistry.
- ii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Biochemistry.
- iii) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Biochemistry.
- iv) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Bioresources.
- v) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Bioresources.
- vi) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Bioresources.
- vii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Biotechnology.
- viii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Biotechnology.
- ix) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Biotechnology.
- x) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Biotechnology.
- xi) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Biotechnology.
- xii) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Biotechnology.

  
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- xiii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Botany.
- xiv) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Botany.
- xv) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Botany.
- xvi) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Clinical Biochemistry.
- xvii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Clinical Biochemistry.
- xviii) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Clinical Biochemistry.
- xix) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Microbiology.
- xx) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Microbiology.
- xxi) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Microbiology.
- xxii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best research publications and guiding one or more students in research in Zoology.
- xxiii) Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year for a faculty member for the best teaching in class in Zoology.
- xxiv) Alburuj R. Rahman prize for the best combined Ph.D. thesis and academic excellence for a student graduated within the past one year in Zoology.

Each prize will consist of a certificate of excellence signed by the Vice Chancellor or Pro Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Faculty of Science and the Chair of the respective Department, and an honorarium. The amount of honorarium will depend on the available fund as explained below.

The available fund for the prizes will be distributed in the ratio of student to teacher as 1 and 1.5. For N number of students and M number of teachers, the total amount will be divided by  $X=(N + 1.5 \times M)$ . Each student will receive an

  
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honorarium of X INR and each teacher 1.5X INR. In case of close points for the top two candidates, both candidates will be recognized with the certificate and half of the honorarium.

In case of a winner, who won the past two consecutive years, the prize committee may choose the second top most candidate for the award.

#### **4. The Prize Board of Trustees:**

The Board will consist of the VC or the PVC or the person in charge appointed by the university, the Dean of Faculty of Biological Sciences, Chairs of the participating Departments under Biological Sciences and the sponsor, Prof. Sultana N. Nahar.

For the best of motivation or encouragement, the academic committee of the Departments may suggest modifications or adjustment of the process. Any decision on the modification of the terms and conditions or relevant issues on the prizes can be made by over 50 with consent from the sponsor.

#### **5. Terms and Conditions, and selection criteria for the prizes:**

##### **A. Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year prize for research for a faculty member:**

Nomination of this prize for a faculty member will be based largely on research publications and with whom at least one student has carried out his/her research for the Ph.D. or Master thesis or authored in one publication in a peer-reviewed journal in the past year. Points are distributed as follows:

- 80% weight of the nomination will come from research publications (published in the past year)
- 10% weight will come from the research students under the candidate based on his/her understanding of the research materials and help of the advisor.
- 5% weight will come from the Chair of the Department evaluating the research quality and help for the research students.
- 5% weight will come from the recommendation of the sponsor, Sultana N. Nahar, or her representative. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 5% will go to add to research students top choice.

Evaluation of research publications:

For journals, proceedings, Book, Book Chapters published within past year:

1. SCI Journals: 10 points
2. Non-SCI journals but known with good readers (peer-reviewed): 5 points
3. Non-SCI average journals (peer-reviewed): 4 points

4. Conference proceedings: 6 points
5. Exceptional journal in the field: 10 additional points
6. Author of a textbook: 25 points
7. Author of a book on the subject: 15 points
8. Book chapters: 10 points

The total point of each publication will be multiplied by the authorship factor:

1. Single author paper: 1
2. 1st author in a 2-authors paper: 0.9
3. 2nd author in a 2-authors paper: 0.8
4. Any author in an N-authors paper (alphabetical order):  $1/N$
5. 1st or the last author, who carried out most of the work, in an N-authors paper (non-alphabetical order): 0.7
6. 2nd author in an N-authors paper (non-alphabetical order): 0.6
7. 3rd author in an N-authors paper (non-alphabetical order): 0.5
8. Any other author in an N-authors paper (non-alphabetical order): 0.4

Citation: In recognition of the combined outstanding research publications and best teaching

The citation may include the research topic for which the prize is awarded.

**B. Sultana N. Nahar Distinguished Teacher of the Year prize for the best teaching for a faculty member:**

Nomination of this prize for a faculty member will be based on students voting who will select the teacher from whom he/she gained maximum knowledge in the class. They can put the name of the best teacher on a slip during the class which can be counted later or use an electronic voting system that can count the voting, such as, googledoc Points for nomination are distributed as follows:

- 85% weight will come from general voting of the students writing the name of the teacher from whom they acquired the maximum knowledge of the subject materials from the classes. Voting can also be done electronically, such as, using google doc.

- 10% weight of the nomination will come from the Chair of the Department based on the students completion of the syllabus and overall performance at the end of the course.

  
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- 5% weight will come from the recommendation of the sponsor, Sultana N. Nahar, or her representative. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 5

Citation: For the best teaching of the subject

**B. Alburuj R. Rahman Best Ph.D. Thesis Prize for a student:**

The prize is for the graduate who has received the Ph.D. degree, or a Masters degree in absence of a Ph.D. graduation, during the past one year.

- 60% weight from research publications (published, in press, submitted)

- 40% from postgraduate academic record.

Research publication points should be counted following the method mentioned above for the faculty prizes. However evaluation will be carried out for the total number of publications during the entire study for the Ph.D. degree.

Some consideration could be given to the subject area such that publications on some subject are more difficult compared to some other.

Citation: For the best research publications under the Ph.D. and academic excellence at graduation

**6. Evaluation Process:**

i) Near the end of an academic year, the Departments will initiate the awarding process. The academic committee of the Department may form a prize committee of three to five faculty members. All faculty members in the prize committee and the Chair are also eligible to be nominated. A notice will be circulated for each faculty member to submit his/her CV and copies of their publications of the past year to the Chair of the respective Department before the selection. The CV will contain the list of publications (published, in press, submitted), conference/seminar/public presentations, participating roles in organizing conferences or workshops, and any other credentials and achievements in the past one year.

The research students will be asked to give points for their advisors in paper slips where they write the points and the name of the advisor, but not their names.

Points from general voting from the classes will be collected.

ii) All graduating Ph.D. students will be asked to provide their credentials (such as printout of their papers, abstract of the thesis, conference presentations, updated CV) and other extra-curricular achievements in the office of the Department Chair.

iii) The prize committee of each Department will make selection of faculty member and student with maximum points. The Chair and the prize committee may approve one or two winner/s in case of close points for the prize.

iv) Department will send the names of all winners to the Prize Board headed by the University personnel who will approve them and inform the winners. The prizes will be presented formally with the certificate of excellence and an honorarium to each winner.

**7. Prize Ceremony:**

To honor the winners and inspire others to make the best effort, it is suggested to hold the prize ceremony in combination with other events or in an event where the largest university audience will be present, such as, commencement, and publish the news of the winners in the university news media.



Prof Sultana N. Nahar  
Astronomy, The Ohio State University, USA  
Date: Septmeber 21, 2022



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# UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited Grade – 'A+'

**Hazratbal, Srinagar – 06**


<http://www.kashmiruniversity.net>

F.(Receipt.Check)PA.REG/KU/22

Dated: 20.09.2022

## RECEIPT

Received a Cashiers Check from Sultana N Nahar for an amount of \$12,000.00 favoring Prof. Neelofar Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal Srinagar as sponsorship for "Cash Prize (Scholarship/award) in Biological Sciences" as per University Council Resolution.

  
Private Secretary to Registrar  
University of Kashmir  
20/9/2022





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