



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

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To:

Professor Kamal El-Shrafi
President
Al-Aqsa University
Gaza, Palestine

July 24, 2017

Ref: S.N. Nahar Teachers and A.R. Rahman Students Prizes

Dear President Professor Kamal El-Shrafi,

Assalamu alaikum.

Thank you very much for connecting me with Professor Suleiman Baraka who is in the same field as mine.

I am submitting the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of the guidelines for prizes of the faculty members and students in Physics and Mathematics. The guidelines are similar to those instituted at Islamic University in Gaza. As indicated in the proposal, future plan is to expand the recognition program to few other departments. Recognition is one best way to inspire for the excellence.

Once the MOA of the guidelines for the prizes have been approved, I will need the account information to send the endowment. As standard, Al Aqsa University will open a new trust account in my name where the endowment will be deposited and the profit earned will be used as mandated in the prize guidelines.

I would appreciate very much your cooperation in establishing the recognition program for teachers and students at Al Aqsa University. I look forward to working with Al Aqsa University.

Best regards,

Prof Sultana N. Nahar

MOA of the Guidelines for the prizes:**Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman Annual Prizes in PHYSICS and in MATHEMATICS****1. Purpose:**

To recognize and motivate Muslim teachers for the best teaching skill in class and outstanding research publications, and encourage Muslim students to academic and research excellence in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

In the recognition program, the role of teachers is emphasized in order to increase the number of graduating students with higher quality education. There is always a limited number of best students in the class. Recognition will motivate them to enhance their excellence. However, to uplift the rest of the class, including the top ones, teachers can play crucial roles through better teaching skill, being more helpful and providing positive inspiration. Students, who are the direct beneficiary of the knowledge, will participate in the nomination of their teachers.

Teachers also play the most important role in guiding and leading research. Without research and publications, there are no advances and the university will not be known outside. Hence recognition of the faculty members will include the research along with teaching.

The recognition program is proposed to be initiated in 2017 so it can start giving prizes in Physics and Mathematics in 2018. There will be four prizes, two in Physics and two in Mathematics. The future plan is to expand the program to other Departments in STEM disciplines.

2. Funding:

The prizes are sponsored by Prof. Sultana N. Nahar of the Ohio State University from her personal income. She will provide US\$10,000 as the capital amount or the endowment fund and the profit earned from the endowment will be used for the annual teachers and students prizes, and sustenance and future increment of the honorarium.

As done typically everywhere, Al Aqsa University will open an account in Sultana N. Nahar's name where the money will be deposited and the usage of it will be as mandated in the prize guidelines. For the best annual returns the endowment can be deposited in Murabaha system of the cooperative investment society for the university employees.

90% of the annual profit from the endowment fund will be used for the annual faculty and student prizes. The rest 10% will either be added to the endowment at its investment renewal or reinvested if the amount becomes sufficient.

3. Prizes:

There will be in total 4 annual prizes - 2 for faculty members and 2 for students:

- i) Sultana. N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics research and teaching
- ii) Sultana. N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Mathematics research and teaching
- iii) Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes for the best B.Sc. graduating student in Physics
- iv) Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes for the best B.Sc. graduating student in Mathematics

Each prize will consist of a Certificate of Excellence and an honorarium. The certificates will be signed by the President of the university or by the Dean of Research or by the Dean of Faculty of Science and the Chair of the respective Department.

The total available fund for the prizes will be distributed as follows:



- i) each faculty member will receive 30% with a total of 60% for the two prizes
- ii) each graduating student will receive 20% with a total of 40% for the two prizes

4. Terms and Conditions for the selection of the winners:

A. Sultana N. Nahar prize for Distinction in Physics Research and Teaching for a faculty member:

Nomination of this prize for a faculty member will depend on the following points:

70% weight will come from students assessment administered at the university for the best teaching that benefited them with maximum knowledge of the subject materials.

20% weight will come from research publications, presentations. The points can be distributed as: 10 points for a peer-reviewed journal, 5 points for a conference proceedings, 2 points for a conference presentation or giving a seminar.

5% weight will come from the judgment of the Chair of the respective Department based on teaching of the nominated faculty members. In the event the Chair himself or herself is nominated, the points will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure.

5% of the weight will come from the recommendation of the sponsor, Prof. Sultana N. Nahar or her representative. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 5% will be added to the students top choice.

Citation: In recognition of the best teaching in-class and inspiring interactions that benefited students acquiring maximum knowledge of the subject material and motivated to academic excellence, and for the research publication.

B. Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes for the Best Graduating B.Sc. Students:

Evaluation of this prize will based on the highest aggregated score at graduation of the B.Sc. degree. However, any bachelor student with research experience should get additional points up to a maximum of 5% points toward evaluation.

Citation: In recognition of securing the highest points/grade at graduation of B.Sc. degree in Physics/Mathematics.

5. The Prize Board:

The Board will consist of the President of Al Aqsa University or the in-charge person appointed by the university, the Vice President of Research, the Dean of Faculty of Science, the Chairs of respective Departments for the respective candidates and the sponsor, Dr. 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 three members of the Board with consent from the sponsor.

6. Evaluation Process:

About two months before the end of the academic year the Departments of Physics and Mathematics will initiate the awarding process. The academic committee of the Department will form a prize committee of three to five faculty members. All faculty members in the prize committee are also eligible to be nominated.

For the faculty prizes in Physics and Mathematics, all faculty members will be asked to submit their past years research publications and updated CV to the office of the Department Chair.



For the faculty prizes, the prize committee will collect students assessment of the faculty members conducted by the university. In absence of such assessment, the committee will decide a date to administer the voting by the students. The voting can take place during an on-going classes in the presence of the class teacher and one member of the prize committee. Students will be given paper slips for voting and informed about the criteria of choosing the teacher from whom he/she gained maximum knowledge. These will be collected in an envelope and sealed with signatures of the teacher and award committee member. The envelope will be opened by the prize committee to count the the voting. The faculty member with maximum points will be nominated. However, there can be two winners in case of close points.

Students do not need to apply since each Department will have the record for the best graduating student. However, a notice should be announced for students who carried out research to submit a statement of the research experience and outcome, such as publications or presentations.

The prize committee will make the selection for prize winners. The Chairperson and the prize committee will approve the winners and send the names to the Prize Board headed by the University personnel who will have them approved. In case of two nominees with almost equal points, the prize money can be divided into two, where each winner will get the certificate and half of the honorarium. The Board will inform the winners and present formally the certificate and honorarium to each of them.

7. Prize Ceremony:

To honor the winners and inspire others to make 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 and publish the news of the winners in the university news media.





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President
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June 19, 2018

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Dear President Professor Kamal El-Shrafi,

Assalamu alaikum.

As communicated among you, Dr. Nabil Elaila and few others in Al Aqsa University and I, I will be handing over \$8000 as part of the total endowment of \$10000 for Physics and Mathematics prizes. Following US regulation on the amount of cash that can be carried during international travel I have brought less than the proposed amount of \$10000. I would suggest we start the recognition program with \$8000 until I find a way to contribute the rest.

I will also be bringing the two astronomy textbooks to give for an undergraduate astronomy course at Al Aqsa University.

I will have this letter printed out twice so both both of us can sign and have our own copy.

I wish all the best for scientific research and education at Aqsa University.

Best regards,

Prof Sultana N. Nahar

*N Recd (8000) only
Dr. Kamal El-Shrafi
President of Alaqsa University
also to Recd the 2 books
Astronomy to day
20/6/2018*

*Sultana N. Nahar
June 20, 2018*

Dr. Kamal A. El-Sharafi

President University

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