



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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September 3 , 2013

Professor Sheikh Javid Ahmed  
Department of Physics  
University of Kashmir  
Srinagar, India

Ref: Introducing annual prizes in Physics for two teachers and three students

Dear Professor Ahmed,

Assalamu alaikum.

Per discussion with you and endorsement by VC Professor Talat Ahmad, I am submitting my proposal for introducing annual prizes in Physics for two Muslim teachers and three Muslim students in Kashmir University. The aims of these prizes are to recognize and motivate the teachers for the best teaching in class and research guidance in Physics and encourage students to academic and research excellence. According to Indian leaders and intellectuals, Indian Muslims are far behind in percentage compared to Indian Hindus, and hence they support any educational and intellectual promotion for Muslims. The teachers prizes will be based on students votes nominating the teachers to express their appreciations for learning. Each prize will consist of a Certificate of Recognition and an honorarium money.

Followings are the terms and conditions for the prizes. The amount of honorarium for each prize is specified below. However, the final amount may change in future.

1) TEACHERS PRIZES: The two teachers annual prizes will be i) Sultana .N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Teaching (without research guidance), ii) Sultana .N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Research Guidance (with research guidance for postgraduate students), both based on students votes. The honorarium of each prize will be Rs.20,000.

Followings are the criteria of the prizes.

- i) Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics Teaching – Nomination of this prize for a teacher will have a 90% weight from students' votes. A student from the undergrad or postgraduate class will make one or more selections of physics professors from whom he/she has acquired maximum knowledge through class lectures and inspirational interactive discussions. The recommendation of the sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar or her representative will carry 5% to the choice. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 5% will be added to the students' top choice. The final 5% will come from the Chair of Physics Department based on judgment on teaching of the nominated teachers. In the event the Chair himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure.

Citation: Dr. Name is awarded with the prize "In recognition of the best in-class teaching and inspiring interactions that benefitted students acquiring maximum knowledge of the subject material and motivated to academic excellence"

- ii) Sultana N. Nahar Prize for the Distinguished Research Advisor in Physics – This prize will be for a professor with whom at least one student has carried out his/her Ph.D. thesis research and published in peer-reviewed journals. General votes of the post-graduate students, based on the same criteria as for the Distinction in Teaching, will comprise 50% of the prize nomination. 25% of the nomination will come from the research students who will be have one additional slip to give voting points for their advisors. A research student will give x-points out of 15 based on his/her best learning and understanding of the research topic, and x-points out of 10 on his/her intellectual and encouraging interaction with the advisor(s). On the slip the student will write the name of the advisor and put the total points. 10 points for the nomination will come from published or accepted research papers in peer-reviewed journals. Without any research paper, the advisor will have 1 point per research student (a maximum of 5 points for 5 or more students). The recommendation of the sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar, or her representative will carry 5% for the nomination. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, 5% will go to add the students' top choice. The recommendation of the Physics Chair, based on the work in the research topic and student's grade, will carry the last 10% of the award nomination.

Citation: Dr. Name is awarded with the prize "In recognition of the best research guidance as well as in-class teaching that motivated students to creative thinking and excellent research publications"

- iii) About two months before the end of the academic year Physics Department will initiate the awarding process. The academic committee of the Physics Department

will form a prize committee of three or five faculty members. All faculty members in the prize committee are also eligible to be nominated.

iv) The prize committee will decide a date for the voting to take place in the on-going classes in the presence of the class teacher and one member of the prize committee. Students will be informed about the criteria of the choice and be given slips to write the names of their choices. 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 selections and for each prize, one or two (in case of close voting numbers) teachers with maximum votes will be nominated. The Chairperson of the Physics Department and the prize committee will approve one winner for each prize and send the names to the Board of Trustees headed by the University personnel dealing with the prizes who will have the syndicate approve the prizes. The Board of Trustees will inform the winners and present formally the certificate and honorarium to each of them.

v) The Board of Trustees for Sultana N. Nahar Prizes in Physics will consist of the VC or ProVC of University of Kashmir or the person in charge appointed by the university, the Dean of Faculty of Science, the Physics Chair, and the sponsor Dr. Sultana N. Nahar, Any decisions for the awards can be made in presence of three members of the board and sponsor should be informed about the outcome.

2) STUDENT PRIZES: There will be three student prizes: the Best B.Sc. Female Physics Student, the Best M.Sc. Female Physics Student, and the Best Ph.D. Physics Student. Followings are the criteria for the prizes.

i) Alburuj R. Rahman Prize for the Best B.Sc. Female Physics Student: The best female graduating bachelor student will be evaluated based on the highest exam scores. However, any bachelor student with research experience should get higher preference. The honorarium for the bachelor student will be Rs.10,000.

Citation: Name is awarded with the prize "In recognition of securing the highest points/grade in B.Sc. Graduation in Physics by a female student"

ii) Alburuj R. Rahman Prize for the Best M.Sc. Female Physics Student: The best female graduating masters student will be evaluated based on the highest exam scores. However, any masters student with research experience should get higher preference. The honorarium for the bachelor student will be Rs.12,000.

Citation: Name is awarded with the prize "In recognition of securing the highest points/grade in M.Sc. Graduation in Physics by a female student"

iii) Alburuj R. Rahman Prize for the Best Ph.D. Physics Student.: The best graduating Ph.D. student will be evaluated based on the best research thesis. Prize consideration must include research publications or in press research articles in peer-reviewed journals by the student. In case of very high probability of acceptance, a submitted research paper can also be considered. The honorarium of each student will be Rs.15,000.

Citation: Dr. Name is awarded with the prize “In recognition of the best research publications and thesis presentation for the Ph.D. degree in Physics”

The founder and sponsor of the prizes, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar, will contribute sufficient fund to University of Kashmir to form the capital fund of these prizes. The university will keep the capital under Sultana .N. Nahar Physics Prizes Trust Fund and deposit the money in a bank with highest profit. The profit from the capital fund will be used for the six annual prizes, any overhead expenditures, and add to the capital fund for sustenance and future increment of the honoraria.

For the best of motivation or encouragement, the academic committee of the Physics Department may suggest modifications or adjustment of the process, and with consent of the sponsor, decisions can be made.

I will be in India in September 2013 as well as in early 2014. I will make effort to visit Kashmir University during these visits to initiate the recognition process. The time will not be long enough to accumulate the needed profit for the prizes. Regardless of my visit, I will provide the extra cash money for the first time prizes.

I believe that the recognitions will enrich the academic and research excellence and learning environment in Physics. I hope that the syndicate of Kashmir University will approve the proposal for the Physics prizes.

With my best regards and wishes,



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