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To:

Deans, Faculty of Science

Al Azhar University

Cairo, Egypt

February 23, 2013

Ref: Introduction of Prizes for Teachers in Physics and Astronomy, and Students in Physics

Dear Deans of Faculty of Science,

Assalamu alaikum.

I hope that you received and read my earlier proposal, prepared in discussion with Professor El Okr and some Physics faculty members from the female branch, for two annual prizes for Physics teachers of Al Azhar University submitted to Professor Mohamed El Okr and signed by him and two faculty members from the female branch and myself on April 14, 2012 while I was at Al Azhar University. I also presented a seminar and contributed physics and astronomy books to library, and met faculty members from both male and female branches. Before that day, I had already discussed initiating these prizes, the honorarium money along with a certificate, at Al Azhar University with Professor Mohamed El Okr of Physics Department who supports such recognitions. The aims of these prizes are to recognize and motivate the best teaching in class and research guidance for students. These prizes will be nominated by student votes who will show their appreciations, not evaluation, for learning at Al Azhar University.

All of us, faculty members from both male and female branches, Professor Lotfia El Nadi of Cairo University discussed the prizes on April 14. Several changes and additions were proposed to the proposal. This final proposal includes all those changes and additions as described below.

The two annual teachers prizes will be i) Sultana .N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Teaching (without research guidance), ii) Sultana .N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Teaching with Research Guidance (with research guidance for M.Sc. or Ph.D. students), both based on students votes. Each award will consist of a Certificate of Recognition and an honorarium of Egyptian pounds equivalent to \$300. The two additional prizes are annual Alburuj R. Rahman prizes for

the best male and the best female graduating Ph.D. Students. Each student will receive an honorarium of

Egyptian pounds equivalent to \$150 and a Certificate of Excellence.

Followings are the criteria of the prizes adopted on April 14, 2012 and the changes to them.

- 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 in-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 judged on teaching of the nominated teacher. In the event the Chair himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure.  
– THERE IS NO CHANGE HERE.
- ii) Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics Teaching with Research Guidance – This prize will be for a professor with whom at least one student has carried out his/her M.Sc. or Ph.D. thesis research. General votes of the post-graduate students, based on the same criteria as for the Distinction in Teaching, will comprise 30% of the prize nomination. 50% 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 25 based on his/her best learning and understanding of the research topic, and x-points out of 25 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 be given for published or accepted for publication research papers. 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 teacher's help, will carry the last 5% of the award nomination. In case the Chair himself/herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the award committee – HERE THE CRITERIAS REMAIN THE SAME EXCEPT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF POINTS AFTER KNOWING THE PH.D. PROGRAM AT AL AZHAR UNIVERSITY.

- iii) Al Azhar University has two Physics Departments, one for males and one for females, and the male branch is larger than the female one. Hence the prizes were decided for an alternate cycle of 3 years where male campus would receive two consecutive years of prizes followed by the female campus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. – THE MALE FACULTY PRIZES REMAIN THE SAME, BUT THERE WILL BE ONE FEMALE FACULTY PRIZE EVERY YEAR – ONE YEAR FOR DISTINCTION IN TEACHING AND THE FOLLOWING YEAR FOR DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH GUIDANCE.
- iv) Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Astronomy Teaching with Research Guidance - Astronomy Department in Al Azhar University is small compared to Physics Department. Hence there will be one annual prize and will consist of a prize certificate and an honorarium of Egyptian pound equivalent to \$300. It will have nomination based on student votes for in-class teaching and for research guidance. 40% of the nomination will be from students' choice for in-class teaching, 40% nomination will be from research students. Similar to Physics prize, a research student will give x-points out of 20 based on his/her best learning and understanding of the research topic, and x-points out of 20 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 be given for published or accepted for publication research papers. 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 teacher's help, will carry the last 5% of the award nomination. In case the Chair himself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the award committee . – THIS IS A NEW PRIZE.
- v) About two months before the end of the academic year, Physics and Astronomy Departments will initiate the awarding process. The academic committee of the 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.
- vi) 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 on 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 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 formally present the certificates and honoraria to them.

- vii) Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes in Physics and Astronomy for the Best Ph.D. Graduating Students – There will be three annual best Ph.D. graduating student prizes, one from Physics male branch, one from Physics female branch, and one from Astronomy. Each student will receive a certificate and a prize of Egyptian pound equivalent to \$200. For the nomination of the student, 30% will come from academic excellence in postgraduate classes and 70% will come from research publications. The research work must be published or accepted for publication in a journal before receiving the prizes. In the special situation when the research has been submitted for publication and is in the process of being reviewed with a very high probability of acceptance, the Prize committee can include it for prize consideration. – THESE ARE NEW PRIZES.
- viii) The Board of Trustees for both Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes in Physics and Astronomy will consist of the university president or the person in charge appointed by the university, the Deans of Faculty of Science, the respective Physics and Astronomy Chairs, 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.
- ix) The sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar, will provide \$25,000 as the principle fund for the seven annual prizes. The university will deposit and keep the fund under Sultana N. Nahar Physics and Astronomy Prizes Trust Fund in an Islamic bank with highest profit. The profit of the capital will be used for the annual prizes, any overhead expenditures, and add to the capital for sustenance and future increment of the honorarium. The honorarium for each prize has been based on the 10-11% profit from fixed deposit on Egyptian pounds. With \$25,000 an annual profit of Egyptian pounds equivalent to \$2500 is expected and out of it \$1800 will be used for prizes. Hence about 75-80% profit will be used for prizes and about 20-25% should be added to the principle for future increment of prizes.
- X) For the best of motivation or encouragement, the academic committee of the Physics and Astronomy Departments may suggest modifications or adjustment of the process, and with consent of the sponsor, decisions can be made.

I believe that the recognition will inspire and motivate to enrich the academic excellence and learning environment in Physics and Astronomy of Al Azhar University. I hope that the syndicate of Al Azhar University will approve the proposal for the Physics and Astronomy prizes. For any questions and comments, please contact me through email given below.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sultana N. Nahar'.

Dr. Sultana N. Nahar  
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Al Azhar  
University  
Faculty of Science  
Dean Office

### Receipt

I, Professor Mohamed Abdelwahab Mohmoud, Dean, Faculty of Science, Al Azhar University, acknowledge that I have received the amount of twenty five thousand US dollars on this day Feb 25, .2013 from Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, Professor of Astronomy of the Ohio State University, USA in regard to establish teaching, research guidance and academic excellence prizes, 7 in total, two for faculty members in Physics Male Branch, one for one faculty member in Physics Female Branch, one for one faculty member in Astronomy, and three for the three best Ph.D. graduating students, one male in Physics, one female in Physics and one in Astronomy, starting from the academic year 2013/2014.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdelwahab Mohamed

M. A. Mahmoud

Dean of the Faculty of Science, Al Azhar University.

Sultana N. Nahar