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To:

Deans, Faculty of Science

Al Azhar University

Cairo, Egypt

December 21, 2014

Ref: Simplification of Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman prizes for teachers and students in Physics and Astronomy in Cairo and Assuit Campuses

Dear Deans of Faculty of Science,

Assalamu alaikum.

It appears that some terms and conditions for the Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman prizes in Physics and Astronomy have diverted from the original objective of annual recognition of seven prizes. So far only one masters student, who submitted application for the prize at the response of application announcement, has been awarded. The main objective of the prizes is to promote and encourage research and education in physics and astronomy through recognition of the best teachers and students every year. The prizes will be given without any application by any member of the departments of physics and astronomy.

I am clarifying below the terms and conditions of the prizes so that all prizes for the best performance can be given every year. I am also modifying the number of prizes to twelve. I will add another \$3000 to include the additional prizes. Each prize will consist of a certificate of excellence and an honorarium as mentioned below.

- i) Annual Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics Teaching – Each year two faculty members, one from the male branch and one from the female branch, will receive this award. The honorarium of each prize will be ¹⁵⁰⁰ Egyptian pound equivalent ~~to \$200~~ or adjusted to fund available. Nomination of this prize for a teacher will have 90% weight from students' votes. A student from the undergraduate 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. 5% weight will come from the Head of Physics Department judged on teaching of the nominated teacher. In the event the Head himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure. 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 same prizes will be given at Assuit campus

- ii) Annual Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Astronomy ^{teaching} - Each year one faculty member in Astronomy will receive this award. The honorarium of each prize will be ¹⁵⁰⁰ Egyptian pound ~~equivalent to \$300~~ or adjusted to fund available. Nomination of this prize for a teacher will have 90% weight from students' votes. A student from the undergraduate 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. 5% weight will come from the Head of ^{Astronomy} ~~Physics Department~~ judged on teaching of the nominated teacher. In the event the Head himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure. 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.

- iii) Annual Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics Research - Each year two faculty members in physics, one from male branch and one from female branch, will receive this award. The honorarium of each prize will be ¹⁵⁰⁰ Egyptian pound ~~equivalent to \$300~~ or adjusted to fund available. 80% weight of the nomination will be on research publication. Criteria of publication will be based on, during the past two years, i) number of publications (published, in press, and submitted), ii) publication on western journal, iii) number of authors and contribution of the nominated author. 10% weight will come from research student(s) giving points out of 10 for research guidance. Recommendation of the Physics Head, based on the work in the research topic and teacher's help, will carry the last 5% of the award nomination. In case the Head himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the award committee. 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 same prize will be given at Assuit campus.

- iv) Annual Sultana N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Astronomy Research - Each year ^{one} ~~one~~ faculty member in astronomy will receive this award. The honorarium of the prize will be ¹⁵⁰⁰ Egyptian pound ~~equivalent to \$300~~ or adjusted to fund available. 80% weight of the nomination will be on research publication. Criteria of publication will be based on, during the past two years, i) number of publications (published, in press,

and submitted), ii) publication on western journal, iii) number of authors and contribution of the nominated author. 10% weight will come from research student(s) giving points out of 10 for research guidance. Recommendation of the Physics Head, based on the work in the research topic and teacher's help, will carry the last 5% of the award nomination. In case the Head himself or herself is nominated, the 5% will be decided by the award committee. 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.

V) Annual 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, ^{60%}10% will come from academic excellence in postgraduate classes and ^{40%}10% 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

The same prize for Ph.D. in physics will be given at Assuit campus

Vi) Annual Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes in Physics and Astronomy for the Best Masters Thesis – There will be three annual best Masters thesis 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 \$100. For the nomination of the student, ^{60%}30% will come from academic excellence in postgraduate classes and ^{40%}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

The same for Master Thesis in physics will be given at Assuit campus.

Vii) 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.

Viii) For determination of all prizes, the teachers and graduating Ph.D. and Masters students will be asked to submit their CVs and printout of their publications to the office of the Head of the Departments at the end of each academic year. Students will also submit the abstracts of their thesis. One prize committee will be formed for

Physics prizes and one committee for the Astronomy prizes. Student prizes will be easy to determine as all records are available. Research students will be asked to give x-points of 10 for their advisors to the office of the Head of their department.

- iX) For the teaching prizes, 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.

- X) The Head of the Department and the prize committee will ^{send the top nomination,} ~~approve one winner for each prize and send~~ the names to the Board of Trustees headed by the University personnel dealing with the prizes ^{and} ~~who will sign the prize certificates~~. The Board of Trustees will ^{make the} ~~inform~~ the winners and formally present the certificates and honoraria to them..
 final decision ^{certificates will be signed by the Dean of Faculty of Science and Head of the Department.}

- Xi) 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 Heads of Physics and Astronomy Departments, 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. 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

- xii) The sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar, provided \$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 ^{the rest} ~~about 75-80%~~ profit will be used for prizes and ~~about 20-25%~~ should be added to the principle for future increment of prizes.

- Xiii) 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.
- Xiv) I would like to appoint Professor Mohammad El Okr of Male branch and Professor Kamilia of Female branch to be members of the Board of Trustee.
- XV) I would like to appoint Professor Lotfia El Nadi of Cairo University as my representative in holding meetings, give points based on the criteria when I am not able to attend the prize meetings.

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. For any questions and comments, please contact me through email given below.

With best regards,



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I agree

