

Sultana N. Nahar and Alburuj R. Rahman Annual Prizes in PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS, BIOLOGY

1. Purpose:

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

In the present recognition program, the role of teachers is emphasized more to order to increase the number of graduating students with higher quality of education. There is always a limited number of top students in the class. Recognition will encourage them to continue their best effort for higher excellence. However, it is for the rest of the class who fall behind in grasping the subject materials teachers can play the most important role. Motivated teachers can help uplifting the standard of the whole class by better teaching skill, being more helpful and providing positive inspiration, when not only the top students the whole class will benefit. This program will recognize teachers annually for the best teaching to support and encourage their effort to raise the standard of the class. Students, who are the direct beneficiary of knowledge, will nominate their teachers.

Teachers also 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. Hence faculty members will be recognized annually for the best research.

Initiation of recognition will begin in the Departments of Physics, Mathematics, and Biology with a plan to include others in the future. The program will have four prizes for faculty members, one for teaching in physics, one for research in each area of physics, mathematics and biology. There will be four student prizes, one for the best graduating M.Sc. student in physics, and one for the best graduating B.Sc. student in each area of physics, mathematics and biology.

2. Funding:

The prizes are sponsored by Dr. Sultana N. Nahar (Ohio State University) from her personal income. She will provide US\$20,000 as the capital amount or endowment fund and the profit from the capital fund will be used for the annual teachers and students prizes, any overhead expenditure, and for sustenance and future increment of the honorarium.

From the information provided by Husam Ayesh of External Relations at IUG, the endowment can be deposited in Murabaha system of the cooperative investment society for IUG employees which returns 6 to 8% annually. It means that an amount between \$1200 to \$1600 is expected to be available for the prizes. Hence the guidelines here propose to use a total of \$1200 for the eight prizes. However, the amount may change depending on the profit earned.

3. Prizes:

There will be in total eight annual prizes - four Sultana N. Nahar prizes for faculty members (two in physics, one in mathematics, one in biology) and four Alburuj R. Rahman prizes for students (two in physics, one in mathematics, one in biology). Each prize will consist of a Certificate of Excellence and an honorarium as suggested below. 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.

4. Terms and Conditions:

A. Research prizes for faculty members:



There will be three annual Sultana. N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics/Mathematics/Biology Research (for research publications which include guidance of at least one research student). The honorarium of each prize will be approximately equivalent to \$200.

Selection Criteria:

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 Ph.D. or Masters thesis research or authored in one publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Research publications will comprise 70% weight of the prize nomination. 10% will come from Faculty Dean based on conference presentations, participating in organizing a conference or some other achievement that makes Islamic University in Gaza known for research. 10% of the weight will come from the students assessment administered at IUG. 5% weight will come from the Head of the Department based on judgment on the research activities 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. The recommendation of the sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar or her representative will carry 5% to the nomination. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 5% will be added to the points for research publications. Weight on research publications will depend on i) number of publications (published and accepted papers), ii) number of publications in journals with larger number of international readers such as western journals, iii) contribution of the author in a multi-authored paper.

Citation: In recognition of outstanding research publications and motivating students to creative thinking and research

B. Best teaching prize for a faculty member:

There will be one annual Sultana. N. Nahar Prize for Distinction in Physics Teaching (includes no research). The honorarium of the prize will be approximately equivalent to \$200.

Selection Criteria:

Nomination of this prize for a faculty member will have a 70% weight from students assessment administered at IUG. Points will be counted from the IUG assessment forms filled out by the undergraduate and postgraduate students. 10% weight will come from the Chair of Physics Department based on judgment on teaching of the nominated faculty members. In the event the Chair himself or herself is nominated, the 10% will be decided by the prize committee overseeing the procedure. 10% will come from the Dean of the college. The recommendation of the sponsor, Dr. Sultana N. Nahar or her representative will carry 10% to the nomination. In absence of the sponsor or her representative, the 10% will be added to the students top choice.

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

C. Prizes for the Best Graduating B.Sc and in M.Sc. Students:

Selection Criteria for B.Sc. students:

There will be three annual Alburuj R. Rahman Prizes for the best B.Sc. graduating students in Physics, Mathematics, Biology. The best graduating bachelor students will be evaluated based on the highest aggregated score in B. Sc.. However, any bachelor student with research experience should get additional 10% points toward evaluation. The honorarium for the prize will be approximately equivalent to \$100



Handwritten signature and date: 2-11-2015

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

Selection Criteria for M.Sc students:

There will be one annual Alburuj R. Rahman Prize for the best M. Sc. graduating student in Physics: The best graduating Masters student will be based on the highest aggregated score in M. Sc. courses (60%) and Masters research thesis (40%). Thesis with a paper, published or accepted, will be judged out of 40%, and unpublished work will be judged out of 30%. The honorarium for the prize will be approximately equivalent to \$100.

Citation: In recognition of securing the highest combined points/grade in M.Sc.courses and research thesis at graduation in Physics

5. The Prize Board:

The Board will consist of the President of Islamic University or the in-charge person appointed by the university, the Dean 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 Physics, Mathematics, Biology Departments 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 research prizes in Physics, Mathematics, Biology, 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 teaching prizes, the prize committee will collect students assessment of the faculty members. The committee will make selection of faculty members with maximum points, one or two (in case of close points). The Chairperson and the prize committee will approve one winner for the prize 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.

While determination of the best B. Sc. students is easy because of academic record, evaluation of the graduating M.Sc. students will be required to provide their credentials (such abstract of their thesis, conference presentations, updated CV) and other extra-curricular achievements in the office of the Department Head.

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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