RESEARCHERS AWARDS 2014
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Introduction

In an era of scientific and technological advancement, research provides us the means to explore the unknown, discover new knowledge, find solutions to scientific complexities and gain new insights into existing realities and phenomenon. Such scientific endeavors have enormously changed our lifestyles, giving mankind the powers to deal with scientific enigmas of modern times with vision, innovation and wisdom, through empirical research, whether basic or applied, yielding critical results of paramount significance for scientific advancement. The value of these ventures significantly rely on human endeavor, those behind-the-scene researchers, whose creative efforts lead to innovation and discovery. It is these creative stalwarts who are the focus of RS Research Awards System, whose distinguished efforts merit honor and awards in recognition of their efforts, as encouragement for furthering scientific advancement in an inspiring and challenging environment that encourages creativity.

This purpose is the basis of Kuwait University’s mission of supporting scientific research and its continuous sustenance, as a basic concept of institutional philosophy to achieve holistic development in all aspects of life through scientific
intellectualism. To facilitate this process, generous support and facilities are provided by Kuwait University in encouraging faculty members to pursue their scientific interests through research projects, in addition to hosting experts and visiting professors. Facility is also provided to the faculty members to participate in scientific conferences in the belief that such exposures would widen their knowledge and generate new ideas during the course of scientific discussions and dialogues for broadening their scientific vision and perspective.

It is largely this belief in human creative powers that Kuwait University has instituted the system of honoring distinguished researchers, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to scientific advancements, as well as to encourage them for greater innovation through advanced research for the sustenance of their scientific creativity and intellectualism. A system of Annual Researchers Awards has thus been instituted by the Research Sector with this specific objective, and requisite mechanism has been evolved for selecting outstanding researchers on the basis of their meritorious research.

Objectives

The Researchers Awards program aims at:

1. Encouraging researchers to participate in creative ventures for the enrichment of scientific research.
2. Highlighting institutional role in the sustenance of research, and in encouraging faculties to participate in scientific research.

3. Promoting scientific research, and studying the potential applicability of research results in serving the State, society and the community.

Types of Awards

I. DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER

These awards are meant for recognizing exceptional scientific accomplishments of researchers, as evidence of achieving scientific excellence and research distinction. For this purpose, a nomination policy has been evolved to encourage potential candidates for participating in Distinguished Researcher Award. A total of six awards are available in this category – 3 for Sciences, and 3 for Humanities. The Awards include a merit certificate, and monetary award of KD. 3,000/-

An award winner becomes eligible for re-nomination after a lapse of four years, since winning the Distinguished Researcher Award.

II. BEST YOUNG RESEARCHER

This Award is reserved for faculty members at the Assistant Professor level, who exhibit potential for distinguished performance through their innovative research and accomplishments in the field of their specialization. All candidates for this award must not have
exceeded 5 years in the position of Assistant Professor since their appointment. There are **four awards** in this category – **2 for Sciences** and **2 for Humanities**. These awards are bestowed only once on the researcher. The Award includes a **merit certificate** and **monetary award of KD. 2,000/-**.

**Nomination Procedure**

- Special Higher Committees are set up for both categories of awards. Separate nomination procedures govern each category, and involve completion of requisite **Nomination Form**.

- A nominee is required to submit all supporting documents for his/her candidature for the award.

- Nomination and selection for each of the 10 awards, from among the faculty researchers, and from all faculties, are processed as follows:

  **a. Distinguished Researcher**

  1. A nominee is required to submit **10 research papers**, whether generated from funded or unfunded research. At least seven of these papers should be published, and three finally accepted for publication in refereed scientific journals.

  2. The nominee should be the **first author** in **five research publications**.
3. From the total papers, at least **four must be published at Kuwait University**, during the last five years of nomination. Also, a minimum of **one paper** should be published in one of the **scientific journals published by Kuwait University**.

4. It is not allowed to submit papers for the award that were either submitted and got another research award, including KFAS award, or extracted from the candidate’s Master’s thesis/project or dissertation.

5. The nominee may support his/her candidature on the basis of his/her distinguished research accomplishments at Kuwait University, such as:

   i. Papers presented at conferences, and published book(s).

   ii. Landmark achievements and innovative distinction in his/her field of specialization through original research of significant scientific impact.

   iii. Distinguished participation in his/her scientific specialization through symposia and academic meetings, such as chairperson, membership of specialized society or editorial board of any journal/periodical.

   iv. Principal Investigator of research project(s), or a referee for research evaluation, and participation in establishing Center(s) of Excellence.
b. **Best Young Researcher**

1. A nominee for this award must submit a minimum of **two research papers**, generated at Kuwait University. At least one of the papers should be published, and the rest finally accepted for publication in refereed scientific journals, during the past three years of nomination.

2. The nominee should be the **first author** in a jointly authored paper.

3. It is not allowed to submit papers for the award that were either submitted and got another research award, including KFAS award, or extracted from the candidate’s Master’s thesis/project or dissertation.

4. A nominee can support his/her candidature through conference papers and published book(s) accomplished at Kuwait University.

**Procedures**

- The Research Sector announces the Awards during the month of May each year.

- A Researcher can either self-nominate his/her candidature, or get nominated by concerned faculty. A duly completed Application is required to be submitted to the
Faculty Awards Committee, specially constituted by the Faculty Council.

- The Committee reviews the nominations, and submits its recommendations to the Research Sector by end of December.

- Higher Committees are set up for examining the Award’s Application, and for recording requisite Award’s recommendations. These are forwarded to the Office of the Vice President for Research, who presents the recommended awardees list to the President, Kuwait University, for approval of final award winners.

Evaluation Process

A. FACULTY LEVEL

- The Faculty Council constitutes the Awards Committee (temporary) from among the rank of Professors with distinguished research performance. This Committee reviews the achievements of each nominee, and evaluates their level of achievement in the light of the awards criteria, provided by the Research Sector.

- The Faculty Committee may select one, or maximum two nominees for the award. It may also exclude nominations, if no one measures up to the set criteria that would qualify a candidate for the honor’s award.
The Committee presents its report to the Dean, within *two months* (Nov.-Dec.) of its constitution.

The Dean forwards the Committee’s Report to the Vice President for Research, with all requisite attachments and papers, for further action.

The Dean’s Report includes Minutes of all Meetings of the Awards Committees, as well as the Summary of each nominee’s accomplishments.

**B. UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

The President of Kuwait University constitutes two high level Committees based on the suggestions of the Vice President for Research. These Committees study faculties nominations as follows:

- The Committee for **Awards in Sciences**: A total of 3 members are selected for this Committee from within or outside Kuwait University, for studying the recommended nominees.

- The Committee for **Awards in Humanities**: A total of 3 members are selected from within or outside Kuwait University, for studying the recommended nominees.
Honoraria for the Committee members are specified in accordance to the decision of the President, Kuwait University.

• Each Committee evaluates and assesses the nominations based on the endorsed Research Sector’s evaluation criteria.

• Each Committee submits its recommendations concerning the Award winners to the President, Kuwait University, for approval within *two weeks* of its formation.

• The Committee reserves the right not to recommend any award winner(s), if it finds none of the nominees scientific accomplishments measure up to the requisite standard for merit honor/award.