**Institute of Biology**

**College of Science**

**University of the Philippines**

**Diliman, Quezon City**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE BEST UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE THESES**

**(Approved during the Regular Faculty Meeting on 10 February 2014 and Revised on 28 March 2016)**

One judge will be nominated from each academic group. The judge should not be a thesis adviser or in any way involved in the thesis of any of the nominees.  A secondary member of the academic group could represent the group.

**A. Best Undergraduate Thesis**

Each judge will rate each nominee based on the following criteria:

**Content** - 70 points (based on the actual thesis manuscript)

-Main question, hypothesis & objectives stated clearly (7 points)

-Importance/relevance of the question explained (7 points)

-Methods: complete, appropriate to the objectives (9 points)

-Results: address questions/hypothesis? (9 points)

-Results: interpreted correctly? (9 points)

-Results: explained well? (9 points)

-Interpretation: addresses question(s), hypothesis, and objectives (10 points)

-Clear discussion of importance/implications of results? (10 points)

**Communication** - 30 pts (based on the oral presentation\*)

-Message of presentation stated at the beginning (3 points)

-Organization: clear, effective; outline given early in the presentation (4 points)

-Clear train of thought followed (5 points)

-Visual aids: convey ideas vividly (4 points)

-Delivery of presentation: engaging and visible/audible (3 points)

-Main points clearly and vividly summarized at the end (3 points)

-Presentation within the time limit (3 points)

-Ability to answer questions (5 points)

\*NOTE: Each oral presentation is for 10 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions from the audience and judges.

Each judge will rank the nominees from 1 (highest) to *n* (lowest, which is equal to the number of nominees) based on the accumulated points of the nominees. Midrank will be assigned to tied scores. The ranks given by the judges to each nominee will be added. The nominee with the lowest rank sum will be awarded the Best Undergraduate Thesis.

In case of a tie, the following will also be considered:

-Thesis accepted/published in a SCOPUS or Thomson Reuters-indexed journal (30 points)

-Thesis accepted/published in a peer-reviewed journal (20 points)

-Thesis under review in a peer-reviewed journal (10 points)

-Thesis submitted for review in a peer-reviewed journal (5 points)

-Thesis presented (oral or poster) in an international conference (10 points)

-Thesis accepted for oral/poster in an international conference (3 points)

-Thesis presented (oral or poster) in a national conference (5 points)

-Thesis accepted for oral/poster presentation in a national conference (2 points)

-Thesis received recognition (e.g., BPI Science Award) (10 points)

- Thesis is a finalist in a university-wide or nationwide competition (5 points)

-Thesis won in a competition in a conference:

                1st place - (10 points)

                2nd/3rd place - (5 points)

-Thesis submitted for patent application (5 points)

**B. Best Graduate Thesis**

There will be a separate award for best MS thesis and best PhD dissertation. The best thesis will be based on the number and quality of publications.  Only publications that will arise from the actual thesis will be considered.

-Science Citation Index (SCI) journal (50 points per paper)

-Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCI-E) journal (30 points per paper)

-Thomson Reuters-listed journal (20 points per paper)

-non-Thomson Reuters-listed but peer reviewed journal (10 points per paper)

If there is a tie, the judges appointed to select the best undergraduate thesis shall also select the best graduate thesis based on relevance/novelty/impact/innovation/marketability of the research work.  Each judge will rank each thesis, and the same weighted ranking as in the best undergraduate thesis selection process will be applied.

In the event there is no paper published under a category, then the same criteria used to select the best undergraduate thesis will be employed, but the criterion for relevance/novelty/ impact/innovation/marketability of the research work will replace the communication criteria with a maximum of 20 points to be awarded under this criterion.  There will be no oral presentation for the best graduate thesis competition.