BE (xxx) University Medal Considerations

Rod Kennedy 20 Apr 2013

Broad Comments

- UM means University Medal
- this is wrt to BE (Hons) and BE (R&D) programs combined
  - they should be treated together
  - UM can (and has) come from either program (obviously successful UM candidate are more likely to come from BE (R&D))
- pretty clearly over the years we have awarded too many, e.g., 8 in 2012
  - in 2012 there was a clear exceptional candidate clearly superior to other the other 7 candidates, which is precisely what the UM should capture
- awarding on average one per year should be a realistic expectation
- awarding more than one per year should not be excluded but be relatively rare
- awarding none in a given year should not be excluded but be relatively rare

Analysis

- In BE (xxx) the primary indicator is the *APM Mark* (average percentage mark or pseudo-GPA) and the secondary indicator is the *Thesis Mark*
- It is rather clear that the *Thesis Mark* is quite subjective and noisy, and should only be considered in borderline cases
- So we just rely on the APM for some analysis
  - we look at data from 2001 to 2014
  - successful UM's have secured APMs in the range 83–91%
  - as a working rule generally an APM of 85% is needed (more recently)
- Table showing the results from 2001-2014

APM Lower Bound	Total Number of UMs 2001-2014
91	1
90	2
89	6
88	13
87	25
86	40

Recalibration

- APM 88+ and leads to an average of one UM per year (13 in 14 years)
- APM 87+ and leads to an average of two UM per year (25 in 14 years)
- The data shows the effect of raising standards

Year	Mock APM 88+ UMs	Actual UMs
2001	0	2
2002	1	2
2003	0	1
2004	0	1
2005	0	1
2006	1	3
2007	1	3
2008	3	5
2009	1	3
2010	0	1
2011	0	2
2012	4	8
2013	1	3
2014	1	8
Total	13	43

Recommendations

- APM of 88 and above should be advanced for UM
- APM of 87 should only be advanced for UM with a strong *Thesis Mark* (90+) and in the absence of any stronger candidates (no APM of 88 and above candidate in the same year/cohort)
- APM of 86 and below should not be advanced as candidates for UMs
- We do use APM for honours calculations and that is fine; I recommend that we start also using GPA for UM medal calculations as this better conforms to university expectations.
- There should be one round of UM nominations each year (mid-year cohort is smaller)

Raw Data

6 UM's for APM 89

14 years 13 UM's for APM 88

25 UM's for APM 87

3 UM's for APM 90

APM

90+ 89 88

Appendix III

Nominations/Recipients of the University Medal in Engineering since 2001

YEAR	NOMINEE	APM Mark	Thesis Mark	University Medal
2001	Grant Grubb	86	89	Yes
	Ben Sheard	83	93	Yes
2002	Michael Williams	89	92	Yes
	Sachin Doshi	86	92	Yes
	Kris Modrak	84	89	No
2003	Michael Chan	86	87	Yes
	David Excell	82	89	No
2004	Rhys Goodwin	86	87	Yes
2005	Ju Lynn Ong	86	87	Yes
2006	Gregory L. Davies	88	87	Yes
	Sung Han Cha	87	86	Yes
	Katrina M. Hahn	86	91	Yes
2007	Xiangyun Zhou	90	87	Yes
	Andrew Sutton	86	91	Yes
	Rebecca Dunn	85	90	Yes
2008	Sieu Pheng Phang	89	87	Yes
	Jason Schiemer	88	91	Yes
	Neil Bennett	88	91	Yes
	Yoong Siang Oh	87	87	Yes
	Simeon Baker-Finch	86	88	Yes
2009	Prateek Puri	87	90	Yes
	Peter Coote	82	91	No
	Michael Chisholm	90	91	Yes
	Christopher Morrow	86	93	No
	Keng Siew Chan	87	90	Yes
2010	Pei Leong	86	90	Yes
	Lucinda Teague	84	92	No
2011	Nicholas Riesen	85	93	Yes
	Peiting Zheng	87	94	Yes
2012	Jing Guo	89	90	Yes
	Yeqing Hu	86	90	Yes
	David Aspden	89	92	Yes
	Elizabeth Coonan	88	91	Yes
	Samuel Francis	87	96	Yes
	Timothy Hall	86	90	Yes
	Weiyu Huang	91	90	Yes
	Emily Teoh	87	95	Yes
2013	Yon Hon Ng	87	93	Yes
	Josiah Khor	89	89	Yes
	Joyce Yeoh	87	94	Yes
2014	Craig Wang	89	90	Yes
	Bomin Jiang	86	96	Yes
	Matthew Shadwell	86	87	Nominee
	Nicole Dodd	86	91	Nominee
	Shanae King	87	93	Nominee
	Xiaohui Zhou	85	90	Nominee
	Jianzhang Zhang	87	94	Nominee
	Sriraj Srilakshmi	87	90	Nominee
	Daniel Axtens	85	92	Nominee

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