Notes for OTOC September 15th, 2023 Meeting:

OTOC Members: Brandon Jett, Mary Ellen Schultz, Don Ransford, Eric Ivy, Jason Calabrese, Joyce Rollins, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Laura Henning, and Eddie Krzeminski

Attendance: Brandon Jett, Sabine Maetzke, Donald Ransford, Laura Henning, Mary Ellen Schultz, Joyce Rollins, Eddie Krzeminski, Eric Ivy

Non-Members: Heather Olsen, Iryna Labachova, Katie DeWall, Michael DeMoran

Meeting Starts: 12:03

* Welcome back! Recap of Last Year

Introductions: Dr. Jett introduces himself to new members and has all current members introduce themselves. OTOC welcomes Professor DeMoran, Professor Labachova, Professor Henning, Professor Krzeminski, and the new members get a chance to meet current members. Dr. Jett notes that Professor Calabrese could not be here today.

Dr. Jett tells us that we are in the process of redefining ourselves and that we had some unfortunate disruptions last year for our committee. We lost most of our budget and had to deal with a hurricane last semester. With that in mind, this is a process and OTOC has a bight future ahead of us. Our successes last year were also significant.

* Defining Roles on OTOC Committee

Dr. Jett updates us on the newly defined roles of OTOC members and that he wants members to consider filling certain roles. Professor Henning has volunteered to be the events coordinator and Professor Krzeminski has volunteered to be the secretary. Dr. Jett says it would be nice to have one or two OTOC events at each campus and that Professor Henning can spearhead that.

Dr. Jett asks that all members come up with one or two roles that need to be filled for OTOC. This will help us accomplish our mission more effectively.

Discussion of Roles: Professor Ransford notes that the committee might be too large for all of us to have defined roles. Professor Rollins adds that we could do small groups that oversee certain tasks and that will also help us accomplish goals.

Dr. Jett emphasizes that he wants to make sure things get done and that he needs help planning events. Professor Maetzke notes that we’ve already worked in roles before and had success. Professor Ransford suggests the possibility of a new library reading role. Professor Ivy points out that there’s a Bedford Spotlight Reader based on our current theme and that we could use it as a source.

Dr. Jett explains that there is a need to solidify partnerships with other parts of the college and he has already started this process. Some examples include the *Illuminations* literary magazine. They have agreed to do one OTOC-themed issue a year. The Legal Studies & Debate Club also have agreed to host a debate that relates to the theme we select. These are great partnerships that can help us grow and we should brainstorm other partnerships we could make.

Professor Schultz and Dr. Olson note possible partnerships such as Student Engagement, Student Government, and the Center for Progress & Excellence. Other possibilities discussed include the Marketing department.

Contact Info from Dr. Olson in the chat:

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* The Pursuit of Happiness Events Fall 2023

Dr. Jett updates on events for this semester: Katherine Sanderson will be here on September 21st on Lee Campus. The time will be at 2 P.M to capitalize on foot traffic that will be on campus at that time. Professor Schultz asks if she can bring her class even though her class ends at 2:50. Dr. Jett thinks it’s still a good idea.

Dr. Jett reminds us of the next event will be on September 29th. Elijah Pritchet will be leading a discussion on the current OTOC theme. It is open to all faculty and wine and food will be served. It will be held on Lee campus in U-102. Professor Ransford notes that we should refer to as a “symposium” to avoid confusion. Professor Maetzke notes that the last symposium event was a success.

Lastly, Dr. Jett urges us to be mindful when coordinating events so that do not overlap. Professor Henning mentions the possibility of having an open mic night on H/G campus with the OTOC theme. Dr. Jett agrees that will be a good event and we should start working on that.

* Spring 2024

Dr. Jett updates us on events for Spring and says there is a need for more events to be planned then. Dr. Chase is reaching out to an author and is planning on having her speak here at FSW in February. Dr. Jett also brings up the possibility of a Symposium at the end of Spring semester to conclude the academic year. Professor Ransford adds that it will be a good opportunity to announce the theme for next year and that adding a student competition to that Symposium could generate interest.

* Do you want to organize other events next semester?

Dr. Jett announces that if you want to organize any events this semester to contact him or Professor Henning.

* What is our time frame for selecting a new theme? How would we like to handle that?

Dr. Jett says he would like us to select a new theme by the end of Fall semester. Professor Maetzke thinks that is a realistic timeline and will give faculty more time to plan for the new theme. Professor Ransford will bring the last theme survey to our next meeting.

Dr. Jett: For homework, let’s all think of how we should pick the next theme. Should we solicit opinions from faculty/students, or should we come up with it on our own?

* Other business?

Professor Ransford asks what faculty should do with the leftover OBOC books in their offices. Professor Schultz also notes she has quite a few leftover books and that a few other professors probably do. Dr. Jett will ask Dr. Teed about what should be done with these leftover books.

Dr. Jett asks the new members if they have any questions about the committee. Professor DeMoran notes that he has some ideas for possible events and that he will reach out to Dr. Jett.

Dr. Jett notes that faculty should join the union if they haven’t already and wishes us well.

Meeting Ends: 1:00 P.M