Agenda for OTOC October 2023 Meeting:

In Attendance: Brandon Jett, Mary Ellen Schultz, Don Ransford, Eric Ivy, Jason Calabrese, Joyce Rollins, Juan Ginarte (absent), Sabine Maetzke, Laura Henning, Eddie Krzeminski, Heather Olson, Katie DeWall

Meeting Start: 12:15

**Defining Roles on OTOC Committee**

* Brandon: Some roles are already set and defined.
* Chair: Brandon Jett
* Faculty-Led Events Coordinator: Laura Henning
* Secretary: Eddie Krzeminski
* Brandon: I want us to come up with specific roles that we need to help fulfill the mission of OTOC and define the duties of each position. Did anyone come up with any other role ideas?
* Mary: A contact person with Student Engagement could be a good idea.
* Heather: I work closely with student engagement and could possibly be a contact with them.
* Heather: Faculty Communication: We could have another role for someone who coordinates with other departments.

**OTOC Website**

* Brandon: Do we want to keep this webpage. It’s outdated. My thought is to not keep it up if it’s outdated. We could also add a “Webpage Coordinator” role and revamp it. Thoughts?
* Sabine: Can we look into the website traffic to gauge whether or not we should keep it? (Heather agrees to check on this).
* Don: If we do take it down, can we archive it in some way? Other professors still use it for assignments in their courses.
* Heather: Update from IT. There have been 29 page views since last January. Their advice is to consider taking down that webpage.
* Brandon: At least 7 of those views are from me. What do we want to do with that webpage? Update it or archive it? This could be a page we use to show what we’ve done each year. We can include photos from events, collaborations with different departments, etc.
* Don: An idea: Somewhere in the public part of the FSW website, it could be mentioned that we still exist as a committee even if we have no web presence.

**Campus Partnerships**

* Brandon: Does anyone have any other groups we could partner with to ask about incorporating OTOC into the events they already do?
* Brandon: We have an agreement with Illuminations to do an issue on our theme. Stuart Brown also agrees for a production based on a theme. Please keep thinking how we might expand into more partnerships to promote our theme.

**OTOC Events Last Month**

* Brandon: OTOC Events last month were pretty good. The Katherine Sanderson went well. The Symposium was a little off because of the time we had it (late in the day). For the future, it might help if it was its own thing and not a part of the larger research fair.
* Laura and Joyce and Mary: All agreed that they and their students enjoyed it.
* Don: For the future, I agree that we should separate the Symposium and we might have more success if we have it off-campus. The attendance looked good and we should definitely continue to do it.

**Upcoming Events**

* Laura: Wendy Chase and I are planning a screening of Marcel the Shell. It addresses some related themes like happiness and community belonging. It will be on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 6. The screening will be shown on Charlotte and Lee. A follow-up discussion will start at 7:45. It will be offered in-person and on Zoom. Wendy and I’s students will attend.
* Brandon: This should be a good event for us. The recent movie screening at H/G went well.
* Brandon: Michael Demoran wants to host an event with the theme of Nature & Happiness. We should do all we can to support this because he is a new faculty, and this will be a good event for us. Juan Ginarte has a lot going on but also wants to host an event on A.I and Happiness in the Spring as well.
* Brandon: Last update on this: We have talked about having an end of year event. Hopefully we can iron that out by the end of next semester. It will be nice to summation of what we did and broadcast where we’re headed next year with OTOC.

**Selecting a New Theme**

* Brandon: Last meeting, we agreed that we should select a new theme before the end of this semester so we can announce it next semester. Let’s get this sorted out before Spring. In the past, we’ve done surveys for this. Should we do another survey? (general agreement). Let’s send it to as many faculty as possible.
* Laura: Do we get good response for the surveys?
* Brandon: Generally no, around 14.
* Joyce: Could we bring this up at our own department meetings? That would give us much more feedback and then we could limit it to the top five ideas.
* Sabine: I support that.
* Heather: An idea for getting a better response might be to send out the survey to the department deans and then have them send it out to faculty. I could also ask Student Government for topic suggestions. There is survey fatigue so maybe the conversations with our own departments would work well.
* Brandon: These seem like good ideas. Let’s try surveys and department conversations and see what sticks.
* Don: Maybe we should try having people submit ideas for speakers or material and then we can build on that for our theme. That might make it easier.
* Brandon: Do we want to try to have all theme ideas for November? This means we have to get a survey out within a week. (Agreement)
* Don: I’ll be able to write the survey but will have to find out who can send it out to everyone.

**Closing Thoughts**

* Brandon: We will have our last meeting in November. In the meantime, talk to everyone you can about the OTOC theme. I apologize for being late and thanks to all of you. If you have any questions in the meantime, let me know.

Meeting Ends: 12:51