**OTOC Meeting Notes - November**

**Zoom link:** [**https://fsw.zoom.us/j/83739696234**](https://fsw.zoom.us/j/83739696234)

**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 (absent)

**Meeting Starts: 12:10**

**Discussion of Theme:**

* Brandon: Today let’s focus on the theme. Let’s discuss the theme ideas and the suggested theme that the SGA sent us. I was surprised with the number of submissions we got. The people at *Illuminations* sent a few good ones.
* Heather: If you have any questions about the SGA theme (“Who am I, how can I grow?), let me know. I was impressed by their theme. They discussed doing mini Ted Talks or bringing in speakers based on the theme.
* Heather: I will abstain from choosing a theme to keep things neutral.
* Brandon: We don’t mind if you vote and have input.
* Laura: Would the SGA theme be what we actually call the theme? Or would this factor into the other themes that were proposed?
* Brandon: In the past, we’ve synthesized them and tried to incorporate a few themes into one. We could try that this time as well. For example, resiliency would fit nicely into that theme.
* Don shares his screen and shows all theme submissions.
* Sabine: The resiliency theme seems to be coming up a lot. The idea of “thriving” could be implemented into that.
* Laura: I like the idea of including a changing world into one of those. What is going on in the world and how can we grow alongside of that?
* Heather agrees.
* Eddie: I like the idea of a changing world because we could also implement AI into it which is a popular topic right now.
* Heather: The AI talks have been popular among students.
* Brandon: While I don’t like AI as the main theme, I do like that we could incorporate it.
* Joyce: What if we made the theme “a changing world” and that way every department could interpret it differently?
* Don: I wonder why “resilience” keeps coming up. Is there a popular book out now that deals with this theme?
* Brandon: It seems like a lot of students are pessimistic about the future so maybe the idea of persistence is at the forefront of everybody’s minds.
* Brandon: I really like the idea of a student led Ted Talk. (General Agreement)
* Eric: I like this theme as well because it shows that we are listening to student feedback.
* Mary: I also like the idea of resilience in a changing world.
* Jason: I think we should keep the topic general, so we don’t restrict ourselves. A lot of good ideas have been brought up today. Resilience seems to be the most reoccurring theme.
* Brandon: Resilience could apply to so many different fields in terms of how the world is changing.
* Sabine: I would like to keep the tone positive. That’s seems to be the sentiment among the students.
* Brandon: Good point. Does “resiliency” have a pessimistic tone?
* Eric: I keep thinking of the word “flourishing.”
* Joyce: I’d rather keep the theme short. (General agreement)
* Joyce: Who is our audience? It’s both students and faculty and it’s important that the theme resonates with everyone.
* Brandon: “Growth” is a good one that might not have the negative implications.
* Brandon: I do think we need to settle this sooner rather than later. Can we spend a week to come up with a few short catchy titles related to adaptation and a changing world? Or should we solve this now?
* Jason: We should solve this now.
* Don: “Advancing” has a positive spin on it and fits with the theme of growth.
* Jason: “Opportunity” is a good one too that deals with a changing world.
* Heather: The SGA students seemed to think about growth in terms of metacognition and learning. Moreso intellectual growth as well as growth in perspective.
* Jason: How many were present at this SGA meeting?
* Heather: About 12, but the group chat has about 20 that added input as well. They’re a pretty good representative sample of our student body.
* Don: I think “A Changing World” is broad enough to incorporate some of these themes.
* Jason: Or maybe “The Changing World”
* Joyce: Or “Our Changing World” which would give them ownership of that change.
* Brandon: I like that. Are we okay with that?
* Mary: Did Laura say, “Our Changing Worlds?” I like that.
* Brandon: Let’s do a vote.
* (Agreement)

**Updates:**

* Brandon: I’m exploring the options for removing and archiving the website. I think we could have more luck if we just made a social media account for OTOC. This is our last meeting until 2024. Can we think through a couple of event ideas? Even if it’s not a speaker-led event, we can think of an event that connects to our new theme.
* Heather: Would we be open to a Teams chat?
* Brandon: I’m opposed to that.

**Concluding Thoughts:**

* Brandon: I’m excited about this new theme. It should be engaging. Have a nice Thanksgiving break. Thank you all for your hard work.

Meeting Ends: 12:46