**OTOC Meeting Notes – February 2024**

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

**Members of OTOC Committee:** Brandon Jett, Mary Ellen Schultz, Don Ransford, Eric Ivy, Jason Calabrese, Joyce Rollins, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Laura Henning, Eddie Krzeminski, Heather Olson, Katie DeWall, Kari Sizemore (absent)

**Meeting Begins:** 12:02 P.M

Brandon: Apologies for late agenda. I blame Valentines Day. Let’s go over the upcoming events for this semester.

**Upcoming Events:**

* Juan Carlos
  + Wednesday, March 27th at 1:30 pm.
  + Title: "Does money buy happiness? What we can learn from international happiness surveys."
  + If you haven’t seen a Juan presentation, they are a lot of fun.
* Michael Demoran, Brandi George, Emily Porter, and Sonji Nicholas
  + Thursday, March 21, from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M
  + Nature and Happiness
  + Brandon: I’m really excited for this because Michael is a new faculty member who is not even on this committee. Let’s all support him.
* Terri Taggert
  + Life Event Theory and Self Assessment of Happiness
  + Tuesday, March 26, 2024 02:30 PM on H/G and on Zoom
  + Brandon: An H/G event! This will be a in-person event but will also have a Zoom option.

**Other Event Ideas:**

* Laura: I have an idea for an event to coincide with National Poetry Month in April. An open mic opportunity themed around our theme (The Pursuit of Happiness) that uses mystery poems. And Pizza! Because food will give an incentive to students.
* Sabine: I would recommend doing the pizza first. They might be more comfortable afterwards after getting to know each other.
* Heather: Are you working with Student Engagement in planning? You can reach out to Michael and he will be super helpful. Student Engagement has an easier time getting money for food.
* Brandon: For those on Lee, come support us at the H/G center. If we can’t get food from Student Engagement, we might be able to get food another way.
* Joyce: When is this event? They have a Language Arts class out there right now which covers poetry. They might be interested.
* Laura: No date set yet, but I will let you know.
* Brandon: Laura and I are working on getting these events into Bucs Corner over the next few weeks.

**Our Changing Worlds:**

* School Meetings: How did they go?
  + Joyce: We had a pretty positive response in the School of Education.
  + Brandon: The more we remind people to submit their ideas, the more we will hopefully get. I’ve received a few ideas from faculty already.
  + Heather: SGA is really excited about this new theme. They’ve talked about it multiple times and they have a sub-committee on it.
* Met with Richard Hodges (Library),
  + Likes the idea of a book display
  + Brandon: They are also open to the idea of giving money for us to bring in speakers.
    - Brandon: Don, could you spearhead a small group to create this list of books to give to the library by the end of April?
    - Don: Yes, and we can also do a survey to get feedback on book selections.
    - Heather: You might want to work with Marketing on that.
    - Don: I know we’ve moved away from One Book, One College, but could we have maybe one book or movie that fits our theme?
    - Brandon: Yes, or even like a faculty book club based on the theme.
    - Don: I can work on both of those. I also want to do an event relating with the theme “obsolescence.”
    - Brandon: Good idea. What if we pitched the symposium idea to them? Based on the book? This would give us something to talk about at the event as well.
    - Sabine: Can we include SGA in the survey?
    - Heather: We can also put the survey in Bucs Corner.
* Ruben Olguin (digital arts)
  + Liked the idea of the digital arts contest.
  + Dates?
  + They’re thinking Fall 24 might be the best time to have this contest. I still have gift cards we can use.
* Marketing folks
  + Really cool and supportive of what we are doing. They can be a good resource.
  + Eric (I think) liked the idea of the changing world maps being displayed and said he could do all of it
  + Offered some money for events if we branded it as a recruitment for high school students (offered it in the evening and maybe advertised to some local schools)?
  + They also pitched the idea of planning an event to recruit students and they could throw some money our way.
* Foundation for funding
  + At the urging of the marketing group, I put in a written proposal for funding for a speaker series with the Foundation. I’m waiting on feedback from them about the pitch and if/how we can proceed.
  + I asked for 40,000. We won’t get this but they will put our pitch out to donors. Speakers can cost a lot so if we have some ideas for speakers we could possibly get some big donations.
  + Sabine: I would be interested to see if we can secure some big-name speakers. I would like to see someone with a background in Robotics, possibly from M.I.T. What is our budget?
  + Brandon: We can possibly negotiate with speakers. Generally, it’s around 3,000-6,000 per speaker, which is not a lot.
  + Don: Arthrex could be a possible source for a Robotics speaker.
* Meeting with Jade Dellinger today after this meeting to talk about collaborations with the Gallery
* Events Ideas from committee
  + Submit these to me by April, please. Include as many details as possible. You can all collaborate as well.
* Other partners
  + Legal Studies and Debate club
  + Illuminations
  + Theater
  + Student Government doing TED Talk

**Roles and Jobs for Each Year:** Laura suggested instead of roles we have specific jobs that need to be done by the end of the year. My role as chair is up by the end of next year so this will help whoever takes it over.

* Chair
* Coordinator of Faculty-Led Events
* Secretary
* Student Engagement/Student Government Liaison
* Theme Selection Survey
* Thematic Book Display Selections
* Contest of Some Sort
* Others we can think of? I’d like to have a list of roles we have before the year is over.
* Don: Can we add Resident Comedian?

**Other Business:**

* Brandon: Final Thoughts: Did I miss anything?
* Joyce: Does anyone have a good connection to admin? We could promote this at Convocation.
* Brandon: Really good point. I will put this at the top of my list of things to do. We need some acknowledgement from admin.
* Don: We can ask President Albritten to be a speaker?
* Brandon: I’m open to it. Should I ask him?
* *General Agreement*
* Brandon: If we have a schedule at the beginning of the year, they could advertise it at Convocation.
* Don: As a final note, we are thankful to you (Brandon) for taking this role on.
* Eric: As for Albritten, could we frame it as a theme for his entire Convocation address? We could even say he inspired us. He is constantly having to deal with “changing worlds.”
* Brandon: Good idea. I’ll email them soon.
* Brandon: Thank you all. Send me your event ideas!

Meeting Ends: 12:51 P.M