**OTOC Meeting Notes, April 19, 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 (absent), Joyce Rollins, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Laura Henning, Eddie Krzeminski, Heather Olson, Katie DeWall (absent), Kari Sizemore (absent), Mary Myers

**Meeting Starts:** 12:02

**Opening Comments:**

* Brandon**:** Awesome to see you all again. I sent around the agenda and updated it. Have you had a chance to look that over?

**Recent Events: Juan Carlos’s event “Does Money Buy Happiness? What Can We Learn From International Happiness Surveys.”**

* Brandon: I heard it went very well. Michael Demoran said it had around 40 partipants who were actively engaged.
* Juan Carlos (over chat): We had even more participants than that. 70 in the Zoom polls.

**Mary Myers Introduction:**

* Mary Myers: Thank you for having me on. When I was faculty I saw the value of this and I’m looking forward to helping in whatever way I can.
* Brandon: We are happy to have you and she is a valuable supporter of us.

**Our Changing Worlds:**

* Library Book Display Update from Don Ransford (discussion of survey and display)
  + Don: What did you all think of the document?
  + Sabine: I have one suggestion. The word “epitomizes” might be too much pressure.
  + Don: I used a thesaurus and had 300 suggestions. I’m open to suggestions.
  + *Discussion of different terms that could replace it including highlight, captures, enhanced, and illustrates.*
  + Don: “Captures” works. Let’s go with that one.
  + Heather: Could we include students/staff in this survey as well?
  + Don: To be honest, I’m not sure who to contact to get it to everyone. I also worried about getting an overwhelming amount of responses. It wasn’t intentional, but just a narrowing down of the responses we’ll get. With that said, if you want to open it up to everyone, I’m fine with that.
  + Heather: I know how to do it. I’m happy to send that request once it’s done.
  + Don: I was thinking about an art exhibit that is mobile that we could borrow as a way to expand it from just books. I don’t want to leave out the other types of performing/visual arts.
  + Brandon: I think the idea of adding movies could work as a digital display.
  + Heather: Could we get some specific examples before we send it out? Like specific book titles?
  + Brandon: I do think the response might be low because of the timing. If we ask the library, they could also work with us to come up with examples. We could also work on those over the next year as an ongoing project.
  + Brandon: Are we okay with sending this out?
  + *Agreement.*
* Update with Foundation Pitch for speaker series
  + Brandon: They really like this idea of the Speaker Series and are thinking about donors. They’ve also assured me that the donors don’t get to pick what speakers we bring in.
  + Heather: Have we reached out to Workforce at all? Might be a possible source of funding.
  + Brandon: I’ve been reaching out to people but nobody’s budget is being increased next year so we don’t have any definite answers yet. We’ll have a clearer picture in July.
  + Mary Myers: I would talk directly to Whitney about this.
* Schedule for AY 2024-2025
  + Brandon: How many events do we want for each semester?
    - Brandon: One event each month from Sept-Nov and Jan-April? Is that too many? We did 3-4 total last year (with the hurricane).
    - Laura: I think it’s contingent on the type of event. We probably don’t want to have more than one speaker in a month, but could have more smaller events in a month.
    - Brandon: I would agree. Realistically, we might have enough money to bring in two speakers and add events between them.
    - Don: Maybe we can schedule two a month and then we don’t have to have them, but at least we have the option.
    - Mary: I would talk to Whitney Rhyne because she runs the Workforce series now and they do one a month. She schedules them when campus is busy and gets a good turnout. She will have some good ideas on how to boost these events.
    - Brandon: Let’s aim for two a month.
      * *Agreement*.
  + Brandon: Does anyone want to assist me in putting together the schedule this summer? It is completely fine if you don’t want to
    - Collaboration with CURC, Dr. Harris’s office, and the Academic Events Coordinating Committee
* See list of proposed outside speakers and events so far
  + Brandon: How do we feel about the three that were submitted? Are there any that you like the most or any that you don’t think would be a good fit?
    - We don’t have an independent budget, so any speaker OTOC brings in has to be balance with the other demands of people bringing in speakers through CURC and Rebecca Harris
  + Lean on Jade Dellinger perhaps for an arts-ish speaker
* Discuss event ideas from committee
  + Brandon: What did we all come up with?
    - Laura: Since I was unable to make the Open Mic event happen for April, I’d still love to do that next year in April. It will likely be on Charlotte campus.
    - Brandon: I like that idea, and maybe we could collaborate with some of the poets that Brandi normally brings in.
    - Sabine: I have an idea but am not sure if we have it in the budget. I’m interested in a talk about the social aspect of robots introduced into our lives. We already have social robots that are pets and there’s already research on the cultural perceptions of this. I’ve had a social robot in my own home for about a year and get mixed reactions about it.
    - Brandon: Great idea and it reminds me of that movie *Her*. You would be a great person to lead that discussion.
    - Laura: I’m really interested and would love to be a panelist for this topic.
    - Don: I would suggest reaching out to the digital arts faculty. They might have some insight on people in those fields.
    - Mary Schultz: The idea from Katie DeWall would really appeal to our Cornerstone students and a project they are working on.
    - Brandon: Agreed. I will reach out about that.
    - Joyce: We are on board to host a panel about a K-12 education discussion. We’ve been in discussion with a contending superintendent.
    - Brandon: Along with the talk with President Albritten, could we do that discussion in the same month?
* Don’s Reading Club Idea
  + - OTOC Reading Club for 2024 - 2025. A reading selection would be announced at the beginning of each term, and then a convening would take place near the end of the term open to all interested parties to discuss the reading.
* Our (Local) Changing Worlds
  + - Don: My third suggestion is a series of panel discussions centering around Our Changing (Local) Worlds. Possible sub-themes might be demographics, ecology, climate, geography, etc.
    - Brandon: I’m thinking of hosting a roundtable at H/G about the changes in Agriculture. Maybe even asking a rep from the Coalition of Imokoleee Workers. Along with this, I’m considering inviting some local representatives to talk about the changing world of Hendry County.
    - Brandon: For this to work, we will need help from people from all campuses.
    - Don: Maybe we could do one for each campus? For example, one for Collier, one for H/G, one for Lee, etc.
    - Heather: One other idea: we could look at the positive psychology aspect of our changing world in a panel discussion.
    - Brandon: I’m a pessimist, so I could never be on that panel.
    - Joyce: We could link this theme to some student research as well.
    - Laura: (on Brandon’s agriculture idea) Lucas Benitez could be a possible speaker. He’s awesome.
* Non-event OTOC Stuff
  + Book Display information to give the library
  + Digital Art Contest and displays
  + Displays of the Our Changing World graphics that marketing said they would create
  + *Illuminations* issue related to theme
* Final Thoughts:
  + Don: I wanted to bring up the Book Club idea again and perhaps do one book a semester and follow it up with a discussion.
  + Brandon: Sounds like a great idea.
  + Brandon: Let me know if you have any follow up ideas. If you have an on-campus idea, I’d like to get it established before Fall Semester starts so we can schedule it. Thank you all for the suggestions. I sent around the list of speakers that were sent to me. We have a couple on there so far. The caveat is that we can’t just pick the person because we aren’t in control of our own budget. Please take a look over the list and let me know which speakers really spoke to you. We can work with Brandi on a poet speaker, Jade with an arts person, and Workforce on a Science-based speaker to round out our options.
  + Heather: We could frame this as a collaboration with Guided Pathways.
  + Brandon: If there’s someone that might fit that, let me know.
  + *Brandon shares screen of possible speaker options*
  + *S*abine: I’m not sure Alfonso fits with our theme.
  + Laura: I like the suggestion of Matt Lopez and Film events brings in a crowd.
  + Brandon: We could tag OTOC on to a speaker who is already going to be here and that would help us save some of our funding.
  + Don: It’s hard to gauge without hearing them speak but some of the speakers from last year did well even though I didn’t think they necessary fit the theme. We’d also have to consider the political implications of any speaker we bring. I also agree with Laura on Matt Lopez.
  + Brandon: True, they are asking for a month’s notice to vet any speakers. Would we be okay with asking Matt Lopez if he is interested?
  + *Agreement*
  + Brandon: I’ll also talk to Brandi about the poet recommendation.
  + Other Reminders from Brandon: We’ve got the book display to turn over to the library. We will do the digital art contest and hopefully that program is still here next year. Marketing is still working on the maps display. Illuminations has agreed to do an issue on our theme, been in contact with legal studies, and talked ot Stuart Brown about a play that links with this theme.
  + This has been a real bounce-back year for us. What I want to accomplish this year is more events and other parts of the institution that can support us so we can raise our own budget. Thank you to all of you for your hard work. Next year we will be on a good course to being an engaging intellectual experience across all campuses.
  + If you have any other ideas over summer, let me know! Have a lovely summer.

**Meeting Ends**: 1:01 P.M