OTOC September 20, 2024 Meeting Notes:

In Attendance: Brandon Jett, Don Ransford, Eric Ivy, Jason Calabrese, Joyce Rollins, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Laura Henning, Eddie Krzeminski, Mary Myers, Michael Demoran, Anna Ciamparella, Katie DeWall, Kari Sizemore

**Meeting Starts**: 12:01

* Welcome back!
  + Brandon: Welcome back! We have a bit to get through today. First, let’s meet our new members.
  + *New Members Introduce themselves (Anna, Kari, and Michael)*
  + Brandon: Mary Ellen has a conflicting schedule so she will not be on the committee this year. She is continuing to support us though.
  + Still in transition process:
    - Brandon: Remember that we are still going through a process of reorganization after shifting to a theme and losing our funding. This will take time. Things seem to be looking more optimistic. We are trying to get independent funding and use campus partners.
* Things happening and not happening this year:
  + Brandon: At the last meeting we wanted 2 events per month…we are close for the Fall, need more ideas for Spring.
  + **Events Scheduled:**
    - Faculty Symposium and Talk Nerdy to Me
      * Friday after lunch…we should all go.
      * Technically not an OTOC event, but our idea that we came up with over the summer.
    - Matt Lopez and the Changing Cinematic World: Screen Writing in the Age of AI
      * Tuesday, September 24th, 12:00 to 1:20 p.m. in J-103 and on Zoom
      * We are hoping for student participation since it’s scheduled in the middle of the day.
      * I’m hoping that marketing can put the graphic up on the wall promoting this event.
    - The Changing World of FSW: Roundtable Discussion with Allbritten, Neuhard, and Harris and hosted by Lee SGA President Destiny Sanchez.
      * October 2nd, 12:00 to 1:20 p.m. in J-103 and on Zoom
      * We want this to be student-led in terms of the conversation. It will be a good opportunity for them to speak directly with leaders of the college.
    - Film Screenings of *Her* during Connections week on Lee and Charlotte campuses on October 17th
      * We still need an emcee for that roundtable. If any of you are interested let me know. If not, I will reach out to the new film studies faculty to see if he’ll be interested.
      * The time hasn’t been chosen yet but should be after 3 p.m.
      * Sabine: One question: Is there any update on what the Foundation can provide us?
      * Brandon: No, no update so far. There is no fund for speakers currently. Wendy and I will go meet with them again and express the need for independent budgets for speakers.
      * Joyce: Those of us who do donate to the Foundation. We can set up a line item for OTOC specifically. You do have a say over how your money is used.
      * Brandon: Great idea.
    - Tatsuya Nakatani: Musical Performance collaboration between Jade Dellinger and OTOC on Friday, November 15th from 6:00 p.m. to ?? in Rauschenberg Gallery
      * November is a tough month since we go right into finals after Thanksgiving week.
    - Sid Dobrin (No title, yet) February 18th
      * Rebecca Harris’ office will cover the funding for this. Will be on the topic of AI in education.
  + Other Events in the Works:
    - Joyce and the Changing World of K-12 Education
      * Joyce: We decided on January and are on board to do that event.
    - Juan Carlos had several event ideas we still need to firm up
      * Juan Carlos: I would like to host an informal chat the first week of November.
    - Brandon: Anyone else?
      * Don: I’m planning on doing a book club in the Spring.
  + Misses over the summer:
    - No luck with digital graphics on the walls. I worked with Eric from marketing for like a week and we just couldn’t get it to work.
    - No movement, yet, on OTOC speakers series funding from the Foundation….but working with Wendy and Co. to go make another ask.
    - Digital Arts faculty who agreed to do the contest quit. There is a new person there. I have not reached out yet. I will try and get this going for the Spring. Hopefully we can have a digital arts contest then and offer an award.
      * Sabine: Maybe we should reach out now so they can start thinking about it now.
      * Don: There’s a photography faculty that might be interested.
      * Laura: *Illuminations* met earlier this week, and we discussed the new issue. We are still interested in tying it into the OTOC theme.
      * Eric: Kelly O’Neil showed a lot of interest. Including the Music Dept in the competition might be helpful. And do we have prizes?
      * Brandon: Yes, I have gift cards.
      * Brandon: I also reached out to Stuart Brown. He will try to link the Spring student production to our theme as well.
  + Book Display in Libraries
    - You should see OTOC book displays in your libraries. The LEE one looks fantastic. If you do not see them on Charlotte/Collier, ask the librarians (but be kind!)
* Succession and Roles for Faculty Members
  + My term as chair is up at the end of this academic year. We need to think about who will take over that position. I’d prefer to identify someone sooner than the very last meeting. If you are even remotely interested, send me an email and we can start talking about what this position entails.
  + If no one is interested, that’ll be a dilemma, since I am not doing it next year. The sooner you can let me know if you are interested/uninterested, please let me know.
  + Eric: I just asked Chat GPT if it could chair this committee. Would that count towards our theme of Our Changing Worlds?
  + Brandon: Maybe not.
  + We have other roles on the committee, too.
    - Chair (Brandon, for now)
    - Faculty-Led Events Coordinator (Laura)
    - Secretary (Eddie)
    - Student Engagement/Student Government Liaison (Heather)
    - Theme Selection Survey (Don)
    - Thematic Book Display Selections (Don)
    - Contest of Some Sort (Jason & Eric?)
    - Resident comedian/curmudgeon (All of us)
* Do we want to solicit theme ideas and decide on a new theme before the end of Fall 2024…so at our November meeting?
  + Sabine: My fear is that once we start soliciting info from others, they start forgetting about this year’s theme.
  + Brandon: That makes sense. We can also push this back into Spring. With that said, once April hits, faculty aren’t responding.
  + Don: Do we need to solicit? Can we leave it up to us?
  + Laura: I thought getting feedback was helpful.
  + Sabine: Maybe not revealing the theme too soon is the answer.
  + Don: Now that we don’t have to worry about the books, we can wait a bit longer.
  + Brandon: Fiscal budgets are frustrating over summer. Even if we know by February, we still have to wait until mid-July. As long as we can get it done before the end of June, we’ll be in okay shape. I say we decide before Spring semester is over.
  + Brandon: Should we solicit ideas before the Fall semester is over or wait until Spring?
  + Michael and Anna: I think we should start early, but not announcing it until Spring.
  + Brandon: The third Friday in November is our last meeting. We would have to decide by then if we decide in Fall.
  + Brandon: Okay, let’s get the survey prepared for our October meeting, get the results, then decide in the first meeting on January.
  + Sabine: Should we also reach out to SGA?
  + Brandon: Yes, good idea.

**Other Business**

* Brandon: Please encourage your students to attend our events, even if it’s just over Zoom. I will be reaching out to some of you for the Albritten round table. I may need someone on LEE to help with that.
* Brandon: Also, we need to find a chair or this committee goes away. If it’s not someone who’s already here, we need to find someone. I hope to see some of you today for the event!

**Meeting Ends**: 12:46 P.M