OTOC Meeting Notes – January 2025

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

**Meeting Starts: 12:02**

1. General Pleasantries…
   1. Brandon: Happy New Year everyone. Anything interesting happen?
   2. Sabine: We did the Her film event on Lee campus. It had a great panel and was a really good event.
   3. Brandon: Let’s introduce Eric from marketing. They’ve been super supportive of what we’ve been doing.
   4. Eric: Happy to be here. We can provide resources like Canva so you can share design boards and things of that nature.
2. New Theme Selected: The Power of Story
   1. Brandon: The general reaction to this new theme is that people love it.

* How do we want to go about soliciting ideas for events and speakers?
  + Brandon: We’ve solicited ideas for the last couple of years. Would you all like to continue doing it? What’s the best approach for figuring out what we can do with this theme?
  + Heather: Eric, do you think Kelly might have anybody since she has a lot of contacts?
  + Eric: I bet she would. She would be a good person to reach out to.
  + Brandon: I’m thinking more globally. Should we solicit advice from outside or have the committee responsible?
  + Laura: I like the idea of soliciting advice. It should be a collective.
  + Brandon: That’s my thought as well. Are you comfortable with the Qualtrics approach?
  + Joyce: That approach lets us get a broader response.
  + Michael: And it might be better organized with the Qualtrics approach.
  + Brandon: Don, are you okay with coming up with a survey?
  + Don: No problem. Just let me know what you want in it and the deadline.
  + Brandon: Our last meeting is in April. Could we get results back by the end of March or beginning of April to start preparing the survey?
  + Don: I don’t remember doing one in Spring, but I can check on it.
  + Brandon: If Don doesn’t have an old survey, I will send that to you all and have Don create the survey from that. The more directed and specific, the better.
  + Sabine: I think we need to do a little description about what we mean by “the power of story.” Maybe including an example about what the theme is.
  + Don: We do not have one from Spring.
  + Brandon: Okay, I’ll create something, and I’ll add some narrative framework about our theme as well. I’ll send this as quickly as I can and you all can send back feedback. At the next meeting, we’ll figure out who’s going to pitch it at the department meetings.
  + Heather: We can also send something out in Bucs Bulletin to get more engagement.
  + Brandon: In other news, I have not heard back from the foundation about the speaker’s series. I asked if I could go make a pitch, but they don’t seem too keen.
  + Don: Just an FYI, the only way the Qualtrics survey went out in the Fall was the Bucs Bulletin. That’s all they did with it, but we got a pretty good response.

1. Events:

* Sid Dobrin is the big-ticket item this semester. He is coming on February 18th, 10:00 a.m. on Lee and on Zoom.
  + Brandon: This will be focused on AI and several people have spoken to what a great speaker he is. As soon as we have stuff to promote, I will send it to you all. Please promote this event. This could possibly help us in our own teaching and to learn more about AI.
* Changing Local World: Round Table in LaBelle
* Brandon: Working on a March date, mayor, county commissioner, and chair of the economic development council for Hendry County will be at H/G. The bulk of the time will be spent responding to student questions.
* Anyone else interested in working on a locally-focused event on their campus?
  + Don: I did send out some emails and am waiting to hear back from most of them. The two tentative dates are March 11 and March 25. The CEO of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce did respond.
  + Laura: Last year I had the idea of doing an open mic night in conjunction with National Poetry Month in April. I’d love to do it on Charlotte this semester and link it to our theme.
  + Brandon: Thank you all for focusing on these locally-focused projects.
* Any other events you are working on?
  + Eric Ivy: Do you think they’d let us do an open mic in K or L? The sound would be great.
  + Eric: Blake in Auxiliary Services is the contact for room reservations. You will need IT to set up Mics and Sound.
  + Laura: There is an auditorium in Charlotte. But that might not be the best since it is intimidating to have them get up on a stage for an open-mic night.
  + Sabine: Maybe in front of the stage on the floor would work better?
  + Michael: If we use the cafeteria on Charlotte, we might get foot traffic as well.
  + Brandon: Any other events?
  + Joyce: We are trying to coordinate dates for superintendents to do events. They are interested but it is hard to coordinate.
  + Brandon: Okay, if you need any help let us know.
  + Heather: Kari, if you want to partner with me about an open mic on Collier, we can use Laura’s plan to set up on our own on Collier.
  + Eric Ivy: One question about the open mic. Are there certain parameters we have to abide by? Can we have musicians?
  + Brandon: I’d say use common sense. I don’t know many students who are ready to stir up a controversy.

1. Future of OTOC:

* When do we want to select a new chair of the OTOC committee? Two people have put their names forward for consideration. Is anyone else interested?
  + Brandon: My three-year term is up after this year. We had two who were interested: Kari and Anna. This is the first time in our history that we didn’t have to beg someone to do it.
  + Anna: Unfortunately, I cannot do it as other things came up.
  + Kari: I am wiling to but have never chaired a committee before.
  + Brandon: I had never chaired one before this as well. It’s pretty straightforward since there is no budget. If you are on the fence, we can talk before the meetings to give you an idea of what we do. Having Rebecca and Wendy is super helpful.
  + Brandon: Okay, so we will say that, tentatively, Kari has agreed to be the new chair.
  + Don: Will you be staying on the committee?
  + Brandon: I am not sure. I am on a lot of committees. I would like to continue participating in some way.
  + Don: I was going to announce today that I will be stepping down and this will be my last year.
  + Brandon: Maybe we can go recruit some people. STEM is our weak point in terms of membership.

1. Design look for upcoming theme.
   1. Brandon: Eric, if there’s any ideas in terms of marketing let us know.
   2. Eric: I want to come up with an overarching look that you all can use so the students know these are OTOC events.
   3. Brandon: Good idea. If we can show them that we do a lot with no money, they might be inclined to give us some.
2. Other Business?
   1. Brandon: Anything else? I’ll see you all in a month. Keep a look out for the survey questions.

**Meeting Ends: 12:45 P.M**