OTOC Meeting Notes – February 2025

In Attendance: Brandon Jett, Jason Calabrese, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Eddie Krzeminski, Michael Demoran, Anna Ciamparella, Katie DeWall, Kari Sizemore, Heather Olson, Don Ransford

Absent: Laura Henning, Joyce Rollins, Eric Ivy, Eric Barreto

**Meeting Starts**: 12:05

**General Pleasantries…**

* Brandon: People really like this new theme. We’ve gotten a lot of excited responses. I’ve sent what we already have and we don’t need to make any decisions just yet. The best part is that they already have these possible events planned out.
* Brandon: I have reached out to SGA and haven’t heard back. It would be great if we could get them to sponsor an event.
* Heather: I have students who attend all SGA meetings and I will have them deliver the message.
* Brandon: Should we share it at our school meetings?
* Don: I shared it at our last meeting.
* Brandon: I think it’d be a good idea to bring it up again at the next meeting. I’ve assigned people if that’s okay. I will ask Mary Myers, who can’t be here today.

**Event ideas for new theme: The Power of Story**

* REALLY good responses so far, most focused on faculty-led events, so cost us nothing
* Think about ideas related to speakers. We should try and spend some money
	+ Brandi George is trying to bring a writer next year, maybe we could co-sponsor?
* Reached out to SGA to ask about attending a meeting and soliciting their input. No response from SGA president so far. Heather, can you help out here?
* Stuart will do a play for us
* Do we want to break up and go talk with different schools next month or are we happy to let faculty submit ideas based on the announcement?
	+ If we want to go speak to schools, we will need
		- SoAHSS: Brandon Jett
		- Pure and Applied: Maybe Kari Sizemore?
		- Business and Tech: Mary Myers is on the committee but also the dean, we could ask her to make an announcement
		- Ed: Joyce Rollins

**Events:**

* Sid Dobrin: did anyone attend? How was it?
	+ Heather: It was awesome. A good turnout. He stayed and talked to us until like 4:30. He said some interesting things about AI in the classroom. UF is rebranding themselves as the “AI school.” They are looking to implement AI in every class so students can be competitive when they get out in the workforce.
	+ Brandon: Was there any mention of OTOC at that event?
	+ Heather: I don’t remember. I know Capstone was.
	+ Brandon: I know we weren’t on the poster. I’d like to see that connection in the future.
* Changing Local World: Round Table in LaBelle
	+ Working on a March date, mayor, county commissioner, and chair of the economic development council for Hendry County will be at H/G
	+ April 2nd
* Anyone else interested in working on a locally-focused event on their campus?
	+ Brandon: Laura hasn’t been able to do much about the poetry slam. Any updates on y’all’s events?
	+ Kari: I got the signs up on Collier campus.
	+ Don: I’ve been trying to put together a panel. If I just get one speaker, should I move it to the afternoon?
	+ Brandon: As someone not on Lee, I can’t come to Lee events during the day. If you can link it to another event on campus that can help a lot. I think it makes sense to do it during the busiest class time.

**Funding:**

* No updates on the speaker series from the foundation
* Would we feel comfortable asking Dr. Bilsky, McClinton, or whoever we ask for this kind of thing if they would be willing to fund OTOC to the tune of $2,000/year for speakers?
* Brandon: When I first started, we had a big budget. Then we had zero budget. I wanted to try to establish a specific OTOC budget. I asked for $2,000 to start. She has to pitch it to the deans. Dr. Page seems open to the idea as well. This would allow us to operate independently with a predictable budget each year. I will keep you updated on how this unfolds.
* Brandon: Another idea that Judy pitched: a Renaissance Fair. We could do poetry readings, food vendors, etc. It possibly could be linked to the OTOC theme. Evidently, Dr. Albritten is very interested in this idea.
* Brandon: The other events that were submitted also might work for this. I feel like OTOC has to do this if we want to keep relevant and grow our budget.
* Kari: I think that’s a good idea.
* Sabine: I’ve been to a Ren Fair and it is very fun. I think that’d be a great idea.
* Michael: They are popular with young people so we would get a good crowd.
* Don: They do have a big Ren Fair in Ft. Myers. We will not want to schedule it at the same time. We also might want to relabel it so we’re not trying to mimic it as the same thing. We also could have a mix of indoor/outdoor activities.
* Sabine: Great point, there was awesome artwork at the one I went to.
* Brandon: We’ll see where that goes. If you have any ideas of something that will fit in with that please submit them.

**Marketing Updates:**

* Brandon: Eric is absent today so we’ll hear from him next time.

**Other business?**

* Brandon: I’m trying to sum this up quickly because of the State of the College event. Any final thoughts? Have a nice weekend everybody.
* Heather: Don’t forget your canned goods!

**Meeting Ends**: 12:29 P.M