OTOC Meeting Notes – April 2025

In Attendance: Brandon Jett, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Edward Krzeminski, Michael Demoran, Anna Ciamparella, Laura Henning, Kari Sizemore, Heather Olson, Don Ransford, Joyce Rollins

Absent: Jason Calabrese, Eric Ivy, Mary Myers, Eric Barreto, Katie DeWall

**Meeting Starts**: 12:01 P.M

**General Pleasantries…**

* Brandon: Any positive updates?
* Heather: I’m working on a sustainable garden at the moment.
* Heather: I’ll also post the update to the online symposium in the chat.
* Laura: I’m excited for the end of the semester.

**Previous and Upcoming Events**

* The Changing World of LaBelle and Hendry County was a hit!
  + Brandon: The event was a success. We had community members, local reps, and a lot of students show up.
* Laura and the Open Mic Night on Charlotte on April 22nd…let’s do what we can to support her in that!
  + Laura: The event is from 5:30-7 P.M. No need to pre-register, just come out, sign up, and read something. Some students are going to bring their guitars. It’s correlating with National Poetry Month but will have other genres. There will also be mystery poems available that deal with our Changing Worlds theme as well.
  + Brandon: I also hear there may be food. It will be great to support Laura for this event.
  + Laura: Yes, we’ve got some money for pizzas along with a brownie/cookie hybrid.

**Quick Updates:**

* Funding For OTOC AY 2025-2026
  + I had a meeting with Dr. Billsky about potential funding for next year and the Ren Fair will not be contingent on this funding.
* Updates from CURC
  + The budget will be housed by the Center for Undergraduate Research for next year. Wendie is stopping down. I will hopefully be taking over that position next year.

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

* Please take a look at the list of ideas with special focus on the few at the top that are not faculty-led events.
* Brandon: There’s still some time to plan these events for the Fall.
* Brandon: Annabelle Tometich was suggested as a speaker. She wrote a book called *The Mango Tree* which was well received. The second idea was Kendra Hall, but she may be too expensive. She worked as a consultant and uses storytelling in marketing. Joel Ying was the third suggestion. He is a local physician and storyteller.
* Brandon: I’ve also asked Brandi George to submit speaker ideas and we can probably cross-brand those speakers as well.
* Brandon: As for all the ideas, Annabelle Tometich seems like the most viable, but we could also do some follow-up research on Joel Ying.
* Sabine: I think we should try for Kendra Hall as she has really useful information for our students.
* Brandon: True, we’ll have to see what the budget is.

**Moving Forward:**

* Kari will be the chair of the committee next year.
  + I can help you organize the calendar for the upcoming year over the summer. Budgets not finalized until mid-July.
  + We could work on putting together a schedule for the faculty-led events
  + Would anyone have an interest in helping do this over the summer?
  + Kari: You will also be invited to the Academic Events Coordinating Committee meetings (once a month just to make sure all the events we plan aren’t overlapping).
    - You will also be invited to some kind of working group that Bilsky will put together to try and figure out what this Renaissance fair will look like. I’ll be there, too.
* Brandon: Kari will be taking over the committee for the next 3 years. I’m wishing her the best and will talk with her over summer to help out with the transition. If any of you are interested in helping Kari in putting together a potential schedule let me know.
* Anna: I can help her with this.

**Any other updates, issues, etc.**

* Don: I had an alternate idea to the Ren Fair. I was thinking more of a Chautauqua because it is linked strongly to the idea of storytelling.
* Brandon: I like that idea. The Ren Fair can’t be just an OTOC thing since it is a huge event. OTOC could encourage faculty speakers, but the event planning is outside of our scope. The Chautauqua would be more in our power to do.
* Don: Another idea might be a paragraph-by-paragraph story. Tons of people can add to the story and I wondered if y’all had any ideas about how to make this happen.
* Michael: That reminds me of writing clubs that do similar exercises.
* Laura: Maybe they could be transcribed or published afterwards?
* Kari: Could we use a speech-to-text app, and have it converted to text?
* Brandon: I think this is worth pursuing as it costs very little but could have a very big impact.
* Brandon: I think we have some good leads for next year. I think we should lean into the Chautauqua event.
* Don: My last announcement is that I am stepping down from this committee for next year. I wanted Kari to know that I am still willing to help with the Qualtrics surveys.
* Michael: I’m thinking about a film screening idea for Charlotte campus. I was thinking about the movie *Ex Machina* and how that will link to our theme.
* Kari: Can every campus do film screenings?
* Brandon: Yes, I believe so. We did one on H/G.
* Sabine: We screened *Her* this last fall. What I’ve learned is that it’s best to do two separate panels for each campus.
* Eddie: An idea for a speaker might be Nathan Hill.

**Ending Thoughts:**

* Don: Thank you, Brandon, for stepping up during your time here.
* Brandon: Thanks to all of you for working with me. I’ll still be around. Have a lovely summer! If you need anything over summer, direct those emails to Kari.
* *Meeting ends with many thanks to Brandon for his time leading OTOC.*

**Meeting Ends**: 12:35 P.M