

## UIMF members' conversation with Mr. Richard Jordan during lunch at UVU



On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Utah Valley University (UVU) students sat down with Dr. Richard Jordan to discuss how the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) can better advocate for the inclusion of women in the final document of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) annual event. The group did so while they ate lunch at Guru's Café on UVU campus. Dr. Jordan as a guest of UIMF had been touring several classes on campus, sharing his knowledge about advocating for non-profits at the United Nations. During this lunch Dr. Jordan told the students that "historically, universities had spires. If there was a spire on this campus, it would be excellent." He told students that he "admired" that each student was pursuing individual goals, but somehow stuck together as a group, and this is where UVU gets its potential from. This is true; there are other campuses in Utah but none of them currently go to the CSW events to advocate for any interest through engaged learning.

Sam Elzinga, the club president of the UIMF, told Dr. Jordan, “I think UVU is realizing that this is where we gather our greatest strength.” Dr. Jordan told the students that when he first started working with the UN, he spent “months in advance working, planning, and preparing.” Sam and Dr. Jordan agreed to work together in preparation of upcoming workshops that the UIMF will be preparing for when they attend the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference in August 2019 in Salt Lake City. Dr. Jordan shared an experience he had when he networked with a city council member within the state of New York: “I remembered how to spell his name, it was something that was hard to do for many people, and I decided that I was going to learn how to spell it. As you can imagine, that was a great way to get on his good side.” The conversation changed to UVU and the support that the UVU Political Science Department offers students. Through engaged learning, students teach, share, and collaborate on projects to complete complex goals they share interest in with professors serving as mentors.



There are currently several projects in process. Mr. Luke Peterson is working with students in the Office of New Urban Mechanics to address challenges parents face when they serve prison

sentences. Dr. Geoffrey Cockerham is taking two UVU student team groups to participate in the Model UN of the Far West conference in San Francisco, and UIMF students are already preparing to participate in the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. Dr. Jordan explained that he had been “hoping” that Utah would be the host of the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, was very glad that they will be, and that he personally expects this to be the “biggest one yet.” Students at the end of the lunch took a group photo with Rr. Jordan and discussed future opportunities that they may have to work with him in orienting themselves at the UN to better advocate for mountain women at next year’s CSW64 event.

*William Gum-Casey, UIMF member*