

Discussing sustainable mountain development with Marcia Barlow

On Friday March 2nd, 2018 I had the great opportunity to enjoy a lunch with Marcia Barlow, the Vice President of United Families International. As a non-governmental organization, they advocate policy related to family issues to the United Nations through the different forums of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). During the lunch, we were instructed on strategy and procedure for visiting and presenting at the U.N. -- an opportunity that several of the students in attendance will have this year. We were also given the chance to ask whatever questions we had about the upcoming visit of the delegation of Utah Valley University (UVU) to the 62ns session of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 19-21, 2018.



(L to R): Andrew Jensen, Kyler Pigott, Marcia Barlow, Emmanuel Omaria and Caitlin Tomley after the lunch with dignitary

I was attending a lunch as the President of the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) Club at UVU. The SMD student club advocates for sustainable mountain development both on campus, and across the Wasatch front in the State of Utah. As club president I had a brief opportunity to share with Mrs. Barlow the goals and projects we are working on. The first one is a campus wide initiative to reduce our own carbon emissions through taking public transportation and carpooling. Our second goal is bigger and involves both a larger group of students, and more impactful platform.

The main goal of the SMD student club is to draft and present a bill in the 2019 Utah State Legislative session, with the intent to improve air quality in Utah. We are working alongside a research group, focused on gathering information about Utah air quality, they are expected to conclude their research in May 2018. At the same time our club is benchmarking the topic, by researching other states, countries and companies, and what they have done for this issue. We intend to put together this information and draft a bill to present to a Utah representative to begin working with them by the end of the summer.

Marcia was very impressed with our initiative and encouraged us to take our projects to the U.N. to make presentations once we have made more progress. We hope to find solutions to a serious local problem, and present that as an example for worldwide improvements. All of us from the SMD student club who had the opportunity to attend the lunch are very grateful for the knowledge shared to assist with our collective goals.

Kyler Pigott, President, Sustainable Mountain Development Club at UVU