

UIMF Participates in UVU Club Rush



(R to L): Mark Driggs, Dylan Genes and William Gum during the Club Rush

On September 18th , 2018 through September 19th 2018 members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) had the opportunity to participate in a university-wide event known as Club Rush. Club Rush is an opportunity for students across the university to learn about and join various clubs. This was a also great recruitment opportunity for UIMF as it allowed us to recruit various students each with unique skills that can strengthen and bring diversity to our coalition to pursue its main goal which is the advocacy of the sustainable mountain development (SMD) agenda of the United Nations (UN). Students that expressed interests went far beyond those with political science majors.

We were approached by students with majors ranging from graphic design and business to film and commercial music all looking to get involved in sustainable mountain development. This was

a great reminder that there is a place for everyone at UIMF and in the broader community of everybody who is interested in the promotion of the sustainable mountain development. Everyone has a role to play in our advocacy and development work. The more diverse our ranks become the more effective we become. As vice president of campus outreach I also found Club Rush to be a great opportunity to build relations with other clubs in order to expand UIMF's presence and open up new opportunities. Clubs that UIMF reached out to include the African club and Native American club, building relations with clubs such as these two gives UIMF the opportunity to diversify our ranks and opens up the possibility of future advocacy work in Africa and among local Native American nations. Reaching out to other clubs also gave UIMF the opportunity to refine its diplomatic skills, as we had to find common ground with clubs in order to open a dialogue and form a foundation, which we will build upon in the coming days.

Being a part of club rush has given me the opportunity to gain a better understanding how important it is to have diverse people helping to execute sustainable mountain development policies. Those with political science backgrounds are critical but in order to truly engage in sustainable mountain development we need to include people of all backgrounds and specialties, this needs to be a whole of society effort. After my experience at club rush I can say two things with confidence. One: UIMF is exponentially growing which will continually increase our ability to engage in sustainable mountain development around the globe and two: There is a role for everybody in sustainable mountain development.

Mark Driggs, Vice-President, Foreign Affairs Club