

## Learning about role for NGOs at the UN from Mr. Richard Jordan



The Dean of the UN Non-Governmental Representatives Richard Jordan visited Utah Valley University (UVU) on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 to speak to us about the UN and the approaching 75th anniversary of the UN. UIMF, a coalition of clubs at UVU hosted and put together the event for Richard Jordan. His talk titled, “The UN Approaching 75: Still About “We the Peoples??” was primarily focused on the where the UN has been and where it will be in the future. Richard Jordan has been working in the UN for 40 years and has represented several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in his time there.

He is the longest working person ever in the UN and has been in countless meetings with Ambassadors across the world. Mr. Jordan is and has been an invaluable part of the UN.

I really enjoyed this talk by Richard Jordan. He explained how the UN operates and how it has changed overtime. Overtime, there has been an overwhelming emphasis on different bodies in the UN to align with each other. The UN has also recently made strides in communication. The 2030 UN development agenda was made by having multiple member states together brainstorming

ideas. These brainstorming sessions let member states openly talk to each other instead of slow communication. Mr. Jordan also explained the changing role of NGOs in the UN.

NGOs not only sit in meetings, but they ask and answer questions from the member states. Mr. Jordan also discussed the role that UVU could have in the UN. He explained that UVU could act as a catalyst in the UN process. He suggested that UVU could host an annual retreat for UN people. This would promote engaged learning.

This talk by Richard Jordan was extremely interesting and it was great having someone in person to explain the UN from the inside. You do not get to hear that perspective very often and it is very invaluable.

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