

UVU Celebrates 75 Years of United Nations



Kyle Warren, UVU Rotaract President introduces panel of presenters

The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations at Utah Valley University (UVU) occurred on March 2, 2020. Kyle Warren the UVU Rotaract President began the session and introduced the speakers. A short video was played briefly explaining the United Nations. There are 193 member states, and the UN Charter is its' founding document. Within the United Nations, there are different councils and programs with specific missions regarding things involving aid, progress and human rights.

Dr. Lago was the first to address us. He is the CIO for UVU Global Engagement and the Honorary Consul of Spain for Utah. He spoke of history hosting many ambassadors and building a great relationship with the United Nations here at UVU. We are an affiliate organization to the UN. Only in Utah and neighboring states. On Dec 5, 2017 a live video conference with the UN made it official. The United Nations uses our model/portfolio as an example for other institutions

that want to become affiliated. As an affiliate, we have certain responsibilities, such as holding 8-10 events a year that are related.



Dr. Cockerham, an associate professor of political science at UVU specializing in International relations explained the origins of the UN beginning with WWI. The League of Nations came out of WWI with the purpose for peace and cooperation between states. However, the league ran into problems such as fascism and militarism by 1930's and several states withdrew. The League met its' demise with WWII, but the idea still resonated. During WWII, the US and UK signed the Atlantic Charter, requiring all nations to cooperate. By 1942, 26 states formed the declaration of the United Nations to reaffirm the principles of the Atlantic Charter. Near the End of war, it was agreed that by 1945 there'd be a conference to establish the agreement. In August 1945, 51 states came and put together the agreement. The UN began with its' 1st assembly in Jan 1946.

Ryan Vogel, the founding director of the UVU National Security program stated that he has represented US at the UN several times. He spoke on the UN Security Council with a question: How do we avoid what we just went through? (WWII). The Security Council is a group of states responsible for peace. Chapters 5 & 7 construct the council and lists the major powers within. There are 15 members today: 10 are rotated, and 5 are permanent. The 10 rotated members reflect different regions of world. The US, UK, France, China and Russia comprise the permanent members, as they were the victors in WWII. The council is the most powerful organ in international organizations, according to Vogel. They Can authorize or condemn use of force. They carry the

primary responsibility for international peace and security, though it has been hampered by division such as Cold war. The Us and Soviet Union would veto the others' actions. There is very little accountability for the P5. (Permanent 5 members). So, has it really been effective? There have been no major wars, yet there have been lots of other wars where the security council did little. There have been talks about expanding the p5 to include more regional representation.

Clark Merkley was the last guest speaker. He is part of a non-government organization as the president of a local branch of Rotary International. They recognize the power of people in the local community that could make a difference. The sustainable development goals of the United Nations and rotary International are similar. They have worked with the UN on projects and conferences. Their purpose is to promote peace, fight disease, such as the eradication of polio, providing clean water, sanitization, and hygiene, saving mothers and children from malnutrition or lack of healthcare. They furthermore support education and growing local economies via teaching about business.

Dallas Karren, UVU student