

## Meeting with GUS in New York City



On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Samuel Elzinga, President of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) and I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of Global University System (GUS). GUS is a networking organization that works with universities across the world to foster Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation through engaged learning.



We met with Dr. Takeshi Utsumi and Gabriel F. Avgerinos, GUS representatives, at a hotel in New York and discussed ways that UVU and GUS can work more closely together and continue the partnership established during the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development. Last July GUS helped UIMF members to be included in the Q&A sessions to ask questions with focus on three mountain targets when 47 nations presented their Voluntary National Reviews.

During the meeting on December 11, 2018, we discussed the iSDG model that GUS promotes in order to engage students in SDG learning by creating dynamic simulation models and incubator lab. Faculty involvement in that initiative can assist in learning, and as a result, the GUS model allows students to learn about SDGs in an engaged way. As another step in strengthening our partnership, we discussed proposals to bring representatives on academic schools in Africa to the United Nations Civil Society Conference which UVU will co-host in Salt Lake City in August 2019. In addition, we discussed the possibility of GUS hosting a side-event at the UN conference next year in Utah to better support GUS as an organization. It was a very good meeting that allowed us to better work together to strengthen the role of our university in the famous non-governmental organization.

*Andrew Jensen, President, Model United Nations club at UVU*