

Student engagement with Ambassador Milos Vukasinovic



Ambassador Milos Vukasinovic during the meeting with UVU students and faculty

On Tuesday March 5, 2018 we had the pleasure at Utah Valley University (UVU) to host the Permanent Representative of Bosnia Herzegovina to the United Nations, Ambassador Milo Vukasinovic. Ambassador Vukasinovic came to Utah Valley University to give a lecture on foreign policy objectives and priorities of the Bosnian state. Prior to his lecture I had the opportunity to sit down with him along with a group of UVU students and faculty, who planned to visit the United Nations to take part at the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) during March 19-22, 2018. Participants of the meeting introduced themselves to the dignitary and expressed appreciation for the willingness of the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to sponsor a side event during CSW62. Ambassador Vukasinovic answered to the questions of the UVU delegation members and shared briefly about what he would be speaking in his lecture, which included the priority of being accepted to the

European Union as a full member and adapting 400 political, economic and social laws that come with being part of the European Union.

Following the panel, Ambassador Vukasinovic gave a lecture on Bosnia and Herzegovina's domestic and foreign objectives. It was very interesting to hear about the process of submission into the European Union especially considering the enormous amount of laws that must be adapted to become part of the Union. Ambassador Vukasinovic recommended all states should be part of some sort of regional union, which was particularly interesting to me because it shows how different his country's mindset is from a state such as the United States. Additionally, His Excellency Ambassador Vukasinovic spoke about the unavoidable instability Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced since the Soviet Union dissolved and he presented a long-term strategy to aid this instability. This plan was dependent on resolving issues between the state's political parties, and improving neighboring states relationships to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The ambassador also spoke about the United Nations and the label they have as a conflict country by the UN when they first joined. The World Bank has since removed that label for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ambassador Vukasinovic feels Bosnia and Herzegovina has a lot to share with the UN because of its history of international conflict, and he feels they have a lot to contribute in terms of peace strategies for other ailing countries. I found this reason to be very compelling and I have to agree with him in this matter.

Overall it was a very interesting experience. As President of the Foreign Affairs club it is always a privilege to meet esteemed ambassadors and the opportunity to be part of such an engaged learning experience because of how much we as students and the foreign affairs club get to interact and learn from the ambassadors.

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