

UN Game Service-Learning Reflection

I attended a UN simulation game that discussed the UNs 17 sustainable development goals. It was on Friday February 7, 2025, from 11-1pm in 213 Clark Building at UVU. The event was hosted by Victoria Baird, Utah Global Diplomacy Board Member, Global Facilitator of SDG 2030 game. The other participants were students from the Globalization and Sustainable Development class including Ana Caballero, Janessa-Michelle Purcell, Caleb Ream, Alexander Woltjen, Louyoko Nianza, and McKay Jones from a different class. This activity directly correlates to the Student-Engaged-Learning (SEL) model because its purpose is to advocate for sustainable mountain development at the UN and solve real world problems as a group, with faculty and staff mentoring, which we did during the event.



Savannah Niemann with peers in line for getting an assignment from Victoria Baird

The main talking points were the sustainable development goals and then discussion on how to play the game. The goal was to create a balanced world and fulfill our personal goals. We pretended to be the entire population of our world and had cards that included self interest goals, money, time, projects, achievements, and a world condition meter. The importance of this event was for the participants to get a better understanding of how the implications of the SDG work in real life. We learned that with every project there are gives and takes, personal agendas, a certain amount of time and money, and always an effect on the economy, environment, and society. We then had to think of compromises and negotiations with other people. Sometimes looking at the world condition meter to determine which projects to do first. It was a fast-paced strategy game and taught the importance of working together for the greater good of the world.



A group photo after the event

I learned that the UN SDGs are very complicated yet intertwined, with very high expectations and set time frames. As well as negotiations are very important if you want to get anything done because we all have different amounts of time, money, and knowledge. Overall, I really enjoyed the game and the discussion that went along

with it. I liked learning more about the United Nations and I feel like I have a better understanding on what and how they work.

-Savannah Niemann, UVU student