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phasized that he wants to make sure that university administration was "open" to students and that he wants to serve as a "court of last resort" to students who feel their needs are not being met.

"Part of my job is breaking rules," Leutze said, adding that he has a reputation for being swayed much easier on issues than other faculty members. "I believe that there often have to be exceptions to rules."

Early in the forum, Student Government Association Vice President Erica B. Pittlekow expressed concern about the discrepancies in faculty salaries at UNCW. Pittlekow said she was especially interested in the fact that communication studies professors make so much less than many professors and that men's basketball coach Jerry Wainwright's salary is higher than Leutze's.

Leutze said that faculty salaries are based for a large part on "market forces" and that generally business professors make more money than those who teach in the college of arts and sciences because business professors can get lucrative jobs elsewhere.

"It's not great for faculty moral, but that's the way it is," he said.

Faculty salaries are based in part on SPOT evaluations and student feedback, as this is, according to Leutze, a determinant in whether a professor receives tenure.

Students also questioned Leutze on whether the chancellor felt that parking and traffic issues were being dealt with to students' satisfaction.

"There is no way to make everyone happy with the parking issue because not only do people want parking for their car but they want it where they want to be," Leutze said.

Leutze said that he thinks the university will have to build a parking deck soon in order to accommodate the growing population on campus. He said that this development will make parking two times as expensive as it currently is and

that the location will not be convenient to everyone's classrooms. He also said he wanted the school to look into the benefits of getting an electric tram that would run on the sidewalks on campus.

"We never claimed that we'd have a spot for you right next to your classroom," said Assistant Vice Chancellor Dick Scott who is in charge of parking and traffic issues. "I don't want it to appear that we're unsympathetic or that we don't care because we do and we have a senate working on it."

Both Leutze and Scott said that the decision to keep roads and parking on the outskirts of campus was an aesthetic decision but also an issue of student safety.

"We don't need students dodging cars and bikes on the way to class," Leutze said.

UNCW's academic reputation was also a subject of debate at the forum. Some students expressed concern that UNCW is considered a "second-rate university" in the North Carolina system when compared with UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.

Leutze said he felt a comparison between UNCW and UNC-CH was difficult because the education philosophies of the two institutions differ so greatly. UNC-CH is generally a research-centered university that is strongly geared toward graduate students, while Leutze said he feels that UNCW offers a better undergraduate education in a student-centered atmosphere.

Graduate students, according to Leutze teach approximately 30 percent of the courses at UNC-CH, while graduate students teach only 2-3 percent of the classes at UNCW. Additionally, more money is devoted to graduate classes than undergraduate courses at UNC-CH, while the opposite is true of UNCW.

"UNC-Chapel Hill's mission is to create new knowledge," Leutze said. "Here [at UNCW] we view ourselves as more of an undergraduate institution...and I am convinced you are getting a better undergraduate education here."

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very interested in the seniors' perspective.

A survey that was put together with the help of the senior class leaders was sent out to those seniors who are technically eligible, according to credit hours earned, to graduate in May 2001. Less than one third of the students who were surveyed responded and over 40 percent of them were in favor of having two indoor ceremonies.

According to Curran and the committee the results of the survey did not reveal overwhelming support for moving the ceremony outside or for wearing school colors. Curran said that Leutze would have implemented the changes had there been an overwhelming show of support for them.

"A simple majority of students did support an outdoor ceremony and school colors, but a simple majority doesn't necessarily represent a full picture of the sentiment of the class," Curran said.

Chris Register, who sat on the Graduation and Commencement Committee as a senior and a student leader, is disappointed that the class of 2001 will not be graduating together, and he hopes that future ceremonies won't have to be split. He also thinks that had the issue been dealt with much earlier, the outcome might have been different.

"In the future I hope faculty, staff and students can get together sooner and get

things done more efficiently," Register said. Ultimately, "Whatever seniors want should happen."

Senior class president Aaron Davis was not happy with the decision, either. "It's unfortunate they waited until now to decide that," he said. "In a school where we're trying to promote unity, we take the biggest day and split it up."

Curran, who likes the idea of outside ceremonies and keeping the university together as a community, cited several reasons for staying inside and having two ceremonies instead of one. Included was the cost of everything from acquiring more seating to a PA system, the weather and logistics.

"I'm disappointed from a community context, but I am excited that we're at a point right now where the day can be very special for the graduates," Curran said.

According to Curran, having two ceremonies will allow each graduate six tickets. There will also be a mechanism in place for those graduating who don't need six tickets to give the tickets they don't need back, which will allow those who need more than six a chance to get more. He also said there is a possibility that each graduating senior will be given the opportunity to have his or her name read and cross the stage, which will negate the need for individual department ceremonies.

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