



PHOTO PROVIDED BY UNCA

Students celebrate their graduation on the quad in a previous year.

Ticket issues causes uproar among UNCA graduating class

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The UNC Asheville Class of 2018 Facebook page was in uproar this week as seniors received an email stating they would each get four tickets for graduation.

To many, only four tickets seemed like the rotten cherry atop the melting sundae that would be graduation in Kimmel Arena. Since the first graduation email was sent out, a number of students petitioned and protested to have the ceremony moved back onto UNCA's quad.

Ryan McGreal, a senior health and wellness student, was the first to post the petition to move graduation back to the quad earlier this week. CJ Roberts, a senior chemistry and Spanish student, emailed the administration about his — and many others' — frustrations along with his plan of what could change.

"As a senior, I received the

email sent by the Associate Registrar Alicia Shope this afternoon concerning the number of tickets that each graduate will be afforded, four. My fellow graduating students and I would like to formally express our concerns about this," Roberts wrote in his email.

Roberts wrote that he and other seniors found out previous Kimmel Arena graduations had between five and seven tickets per graduate. But the Class of 2018 is the largest graduating class in UNCA history, with more than 500 students receiving their degrees this May. This could possibly limit the space available to guests, especially to handicapped individuals. Kimmel has a capacity of 3,400, which may give students the chance to obtain six tickets per graduate.

While many had a problem with only receiving four tickets, myself and a quiet minority of seniors felt it was better than none. Some col-

leges bigger than UNCA only allot students four tickets and smaller colleges often give fewer. Live streaming of the event is promised for those who cannot fit into the arena, my brother and grandparents already deciding to do this to avoid the larger crowd. This practice may have to be used on the quad with its unticketed status possibly equalling thousands on the grassy spot and many who will be in the back with no view of the stage on which we walk.

"The live stream option sounds fantastic to me. I have some small children in my family and I know their parents would be much happier seeing the ceremony from somewhere else where their babies would not be able to disrupt the ceremony," said Liz Torres, a senior history student.

Torres herself has seven family members planning to attend the ceremony, some traveling from Puerto

Rico. She said she found some of the outcry immature.

"I feel like the reaction is blown out of proportion. To me, the backlash is incredibly childish and I haven't really heard a reason to petition or complain that isn't selfish or stubborn," Torres said. "It also upsets me that our entire class is being tied to the backlash because the majority of people who I interact with could not care less about where the ceremony is."

Similarly to Torres, I found some of the demands made were selfish, a few students alluding to the possibility of having entourages that reached double digits. There is no need for every single aunt and uncle to attend the ceremony, but grandparents are understandable guests many students include on their special days who will make the four ticket limit a tight squeeze. I have a

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