

John Ernest has been released on \$100,000 bail after attacking Professor Britteny Nix-Crawford on Wednesday in class.

The incident occurred after Crawford had announced there would be no curves for their recent exam, according to Sam Shirley, another student of Crawford's.

"I guess he didn't get the grade that he wanted," she said. "After she said she wouldn't curve our grades, he just started yelling about how the exam was too hard and how it was rigged. Then he reached into his backpack and brought out a lightsaber, and just started hitting her with it." According to Shirley, Crawford refused help from her students.

"Some of the students tried to go help Professor Crawford, but she just started yelling 'No! This is good practice!'" she said. "And then she told us to start taking notes. Everyone was super confused, but we did what we were told."

John had brought the lightsaber as a part of a presentation for a different class, according to Police Chief Serg Sergeant at the press conference following the attack.

"He had apparently brought the lightsaber for a presentation in a different class. I guess it was a skit or something?" he said. "I don't know. But he ended up using it to hit Mrs. Crawford on the head. And once she was down, he just kept hitting." Police presence on campus will increase to help prevent further attacks, according to Sergeant.

Crawford is still in recovery. Shirley and her fellow classmates have put together a care package to help with her recovery.

"In hindsight, I wish we had jumped in and pulled John away," said Shirley. "Professor Crawford probably wouldn't be so beaten up if we stepped in."

After his release earlier this afternoon, John Ernest issued a statement to the public.

"I earnestly apologize for my behavior on Wednesday. I have been studying so hard for this course, and thought that I had that exam in the bag. Seeing my grade really put me in shock. And then learning there wouldn't be a curve? I was appalled. I understand that I cannot solve my problems by attacking them with lightsabers. This entire incident has been entirely out of my character, and I want nothing more than a speedy recovery for Professor Crawford."

Ernest has been suspended from UNC Charlotte and plans to make an appeal to come back during the fall semester.