4. Should Tarleton continue to increase enrollment and if so, how fast? Please explain the reasoning/thinking behind your response.

Text Response

-- I think we have to be very careful on how fast or if we continue to grow our enrollment. At the very most, 10,000 on this campus. Stephenville's population has remained fairly stable, even in the face of rapid growth at the university. It would be a mistake for the main campus population to get to close to the city population (or even bigger). The community must be able to support the university as much, if not more, than the university supports the community. If the community is not substantially larger than the main campus population, adequate services and activities won't be available to support the students, and community resources won't be available to meet the needs of the community citizens because of the impact of the student population (i.e. law enforcement).

-- As long as there is structure to support them (that is, adequate staff, faculty, buildings, etc.), then yes. Increase it as fast as the structure allows without losing the integrity of the student's education.

-- I do not believe we should continue to increase passed about 15,000 -16,000 because there is a diminishing return on the interactions between the students and faculty/staff

-- If we keep increasing enrollment, tarleton will become Stephenville. We will have to buy land/houses/streets around the campus to expand... because more students means more buildings/parking lots. Why would we want tarleton to expand when stephenville itself is not growing. I think we would have to take into consideration the community as a whole. We do not want to build this eiffel tower in this small town. Perhaps, more focus should be on the ft worth and midlothian campuses.

-- It's fairly easy to see the trends in enrollment. If we are going to grow, then growth staff needs to be planned for and implemented as we grow not after the growth has occurred. We add students and then must hope that in time (usually a long time), staff support is increased. Shouldn't these things occur simulataneously?

-- yes

-- Unsure about this question. Where is adequate housing going to come from? How much larger can classrooms be before effectiveness is lost? It might be in the best interest of students and the University to concentrate on making this the very best place to go to school, student support, great classes, less stressed, events to encourage students to find a cohesive niche where they fit on campus.

-- Tarleton should continue it's efforts to increase enrollment, however, it should not grow any faster than our infrastructure can handle. Our enrollment already exceeds our infrastructure and the university needs to allow time to play "catch up" before continuing to increase enrollment. There is not enough housing, not enough classrooms and there are too few employees to meet the demand of students.

-- Maybe we should figure out how to handle the students we already have before we add thousands more. The housing problem needs to be fixed!

-- I believe in growth but I also feel it is necessary to nurture those students already here. Our resources as far as faculty and staff as we stand now will be comprised by too much growth too fast. One thing that Tarleton's has been able to be proud of is the attention to our students and making sure that their needs are met.
-- No, we do not have a feasible plan for increased enrollment (or if we do, it is a well kept secret). We do not have the space, classroom utilization is awful, parking, dining hall (try eating at noon), no increase in staff to handle increased enrollment.

-- Yes. They need to make sure there is adequate parking for students however.

-- Yes. The more students we have the more we can offer and expand. Of course with more students comes more staff, faculty and support. All support staff are swamped and overloaded because the increase in students hasn't led to an increase in help.

-- I think they need to catch up with where they are at enrollment wise with a properly structured staff. From what I know of the last presidential visits to the departments, many departments are working beyond capacity in their workloads, and there are not enough faculty and the numbers are too high for enrollment in classes that are critical. In my opinion it should not be about money it should be about a quality education where our students are concerned. If you cannot provide quality, in the long run you will lose part of your flock. You must assure quality. Our enrollment is high and our kids are having to live in hotels. Progression should come at a pace not in leaps and bounds because you don't want your troubles to begin to outweigh your achievements and then to suddenly become overwhelmed. To pace ourselves as an institution would be wise in trying to assure quality of service and retention of those we already have committed to. Though you cannot achieve success on a skeleton crew either. I know there are cut backs because of the deficit, but the deficit is something that will always be there, opportunity may not always be a constant variable. Right now we as an institution have been given the opportunity of a blessed enrollment, if we want to retain it...we need to think of how we treat it and those on staff, faculty and staff alike. Going full speed ahead with little fuel will either burn us out or have us run out of fuel and then the results could be disastrous. We have the enrollment now. Now is to stand and work with what we've got and make it about quality not about fortune!

-- Tarleton must continue to increase enrollment in order to stay relevant. But I believe we need to slow down considerably. Growth without forethought and planning simply causes problems. Also, if we get too big, we will lose the family feeling that makes us special.

-- I don't think Tarleton needs to set a cap on enrollment. We exist to serve the students from this region. However, if we continue to let enrollment outpace capacity (rooms, faculty, staff, parking...) we will not be capable of delivering a quality educational experience for our students.

-- Increased enrollment = More $ for all.
--- Tarleton needs to think strategically about its future. The leadership needs to be more inclusive and not disregard the input of highly skilled and knowledgeable people. Individuals have gotten so worn down by this current culture which is exclusive, focused on only the pet projects of the elite leaders, and forgets from where they came.

Can Tarleton service the students it has now? Are the current staff members stretched too thin that they cannot even do a minimum job of meeting the current enrollment's needs for class registration, instructor/faculty interaction, housing, and services?

How does Administration justify demanding more and more and more from the staff while refusing to pour into staff support resources such as more staff members to service students? Staff simply are expected to do more, do more, do more with less and less and less. At what point do you stop cutting into the bone and thinking we are fine?

--- Overall, I support the increase in enrollment. The answers to the questions of how much and how fast are not so easy.

From a facilities standpoint (residence halls, dining facilities, classrooms, etc.) I do not think that it is cost effective to continue to build the infrastructure necessary to support the rate of growth we have experienced.

Increasing the number of on-line and non-residential students appears to be solutions for growth that do not overtax our ability to support it.

The increased use of "non-permanent" faculty to support our current growth rate is necessary to fill the gaps until we can determine if the student population will be sustained. The negative effect on quality of instruction may have a substantial affect on student retention and graduation rates, as well as an impact on maintaining accreditation.

--- I would say no, until they have the staff, faculty and housing to handle an increase. Currently we are understaffed both in the staff and faculty area. When you have to send students off campus for housing, you shouldn't receive more students till the problem is resolved. It is a safety issue.

--- The increase in enrollment needs to meet the needs of the increase of students. There should be available funding to compensate the growth for more classroom, lab space and additional teaching faculty positions.

--- Yes, increase enrollment, but at the same time increase enrollment requirements. An organization that is not growing is dying.

--- It was amazing to reach our 10,000 student goal and I am very proud of our university for the growth. However, we need to be cautious that if we are going to continue to push growth that we have ample staff, faculty, IT, housing, and parking to accommodate such growth. There are offices that are vital to the admission process that have student workers doing the work of full-time office staff due to staff shortage.
Definitely. Increased enrollment can assist with the desperately needed diversity of the student population. This can be achieved by placing more resources into the expansion of recruitment arenas (including out of state), increasing the level of professionalism in the recruitment area, and targeting through statistical analysis areas that guarantee successful recruitment targets. The diversity of the student population is also reflected in the diversity of the faculty and staff. We need to reach further out than our own alumni to populate vacancies. The larger the enrollment, the larger the faculty and staff needs, which will additionally foster more opportunities to diversify the campus community.

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growth needs to be balanced with faculty resources. You need some targeted recruitment for faculty or grow our own, incentivize our staff to increase educational attainment.

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I think that Tarleton's rate of growth is great for the university and the community, but we must increase our service to the student at the same rate as the enrollment increase. I hear students complain regularly that they can't get the classes they need and that various student services are lacking. I would desire to see Tarleton to continue to grow at the rate it has the last few years, but our faculty, class offerings, student services, parking areas, etc. must keep up with the growth.

I have a child who attends Tarleton who was misadvised and took classes that were not needed because an advisor just had to "stick him somewhere" his first semester- no place is perfect, but we must serve our students better than that.

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Absolutely. As fast as possible. The school needs more money to enhance facilities. Some of the facilities on campus are embarrassing compared to similar Division II schools in Texas. The baseball and football facilities are in the bottom tier when compared to Lone Star Conference competition.

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I think until Tarleton catches up with the amount of students they have they should not try to increase enrollment. Everyone knows the more population you have - more crime. Many many parents sent there kids to TSC because we are a small community with little crime.

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Yes, I think that Tarleton should continue to increase enrollment because of the education that they are providing. For instance, it is solid and all faculty member appear to be very passionate about teaching learners.

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I think quality should be more important than quantity. We should make sure the infrastructure (housing, parking, classroom space, etc.) is adequate to support more growth or we risk disenchanting current students. I think the cost of supporting continued growth needs to be considered, too.

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Not in Stephenville, in particular, because of the requirements for Freshmen and Sophomores to live on campus. I don’t know where we have money to keep building dorms, but they aren’t coming fast enough, and students are getting stuffed into rooms. Sure, that was how college life was back in the day when we didn’t even have air conditioners in our rooms, but these students seem to need more. Great that we have the enrollment, but we need to get them educated while they are here. We need to focus more on retention and making sure they truly come out of this University ready to be a part of the workforce.
Growth is usually desirable as long as it is controlled so that the effects are manageable. Increasing enrollment beyond facility and instructors’ effective capacities is counterproductive and would have negative results in some areas, such as student satisfaction, graduation rates and university reputation. These would result in reduced enrollment after a period of time.

There should be available or additional funding to compensate for the increase in enrollment with more classrooms, lab space and additional faculty & staff positions. The growth needs to parallel the amount of funding there is to support it, to give students a quality environment and education.

Increasing enrollment helps with some aspects of monetary issues. It also creates a tremendous problem on the back end, with little to no increase in staff power to house, clean up after, serve, etc these students, what are we really offering the students besides substandard services. What kind of reputation are we creating now? The student counseling office has to hire contract counselors from around the area just to keep up with the mental health load, and that allows very little, if any, balance for the counselors already employed. That is a serious concern and needs immediate attention especially with the continued stories of crisis on other campuses.

Little to no services are offered to students at the satellite campuses. Has any one polled them to get their take on what services they required, desire, etc? They pay the same fees and tuition but receive less services since they are not a part of the Stephenville community.

We need to work on retaining the students we have. Upgrading faculty who still use 1980’s over head projectors in classes because they are fearful of technology. Technology changes almost daily, what kind of example are faculty setting who can’t even use power point? If it is an issue of "old transparencies that have not been converted to new technology, find a student volunteer to recreate it in an up-to-date software, etc.

That’s a broad question. I can say that I feel Tarleton should continue to "grow" enrollment and focus resources in critical areas, but not others. Faculty and administration should avoid comparing themselves to other colleges and making decisions based on findings in that realm. I think it’s more important that Tarleton look outside the university to determine changes. Don’t recruit for CIS or wildlife management majors. Either, there’s too many out there and the market is flooded, or there aren’t enough jobs in the current job market to begin with and none forecasted for the future. Why do you knowingly recruit for those students? It’s a disservice, almost a bloody crime.

Increasing enrollment is fine, if you have the space to house students, which is a problem.

In my opinion, Tarleton should not increase enrollment until we have the facilities to house all freshman, or change the requirements for on campus living. In addition, we shouldn’t increase enrollment until we address the understaffing in some areas that has resulted due to the current increase in enrollment.
-- Growth should be slow and natural. Forced growth in any organic system causes failures.
Specifically, slow natural growth does not overburden limited resources such as faculty,
classroom space, support functions.

-- I am excited our enrollment has increased but with that we need more staff or pay increases
to compensate the additional work load. Especially for our academic departments.

-- No. My opinion is that this is where we should settle for a while. For now, it is almost
sustainable for support and personnel to keep up with. Don't grow too fast or services suffer
and that will only hurt the student experience, not to mention limited resources. If you grow
the enrollment, you must commit to raising salaries and increasing staff to support the
numbers. Or quit doing some of the things we do today.
-- Sure?

Relatively cheap tuition and low standards for admission should continue to allow Tarleton's
enrollment numbers to increase. I would think for a "regional" university enrollment
numbers are the main concern since that directly impacts revenue.

-- I do not think TSU should continue to grow so fast due to the cap on the hiring of new people.
If we cannot meet the needs of the students and do it in the manner that we take pride in, we
will not be a University that is any different than others. One of the greatest known facts about
Tarleton is our ability to personalize and offer students an education where they can be
important and not just a number. That is what sets TSU apart. #5 As we continue to grow in
student population, our faculty/staff ratio is not growing in the same way. The increased
number of students that are being admitted does not reflect the number of TSU staff. Every
department is asked to stretch and meet the needs and this stretching can be good but only to a
point. When it interferes with the quality of each individual job, we lose our ability to offer
the unique and genuine desire to individualize. This makes us average and takes away from
the above average.

-- No, our facilities cannot accommodate further increase. Freshman classes full and unavailable
unless the student registers early like in Honors Orientation. Parking is unavailable. Housing is
over capacity already. Areas like the Health Center have wait-lists for ill students, often
turning them away for 1 or 2 days before they may be seen.

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-- NOOOO! We do not have the staff or the room. Students complain also about not being able
to park to get to their appointments or to get to class. We are limited on room and staff to be able to
see patients in the health center. Parents call us mad because we can't see their child and
wonder why we have a health center if we can't see them
-- No but if they do and if they do, they need to have more dorms, more clinical staff, larger facilities and more parking to handle the excess amount of students. I also believe students come here because it has a more small University feel and they are not just a number. If we increase, we loose that and I don't think we will be the draw we are now.

-- Tarleton should increase enrollment only as fast and as much as they are able to maintain the quality of the personal and academic experience they offer.

-- Growth is a good and positive thing and is something I am proud of here at Tarleton, However, I do think there are areas here at Tarleton that need more staff and faculty to support the growth. It's not good to bring in mass quantities of new students to over worked and overwhelmed faculty and staff. I think 10,000 is a good place to be for Tarleton. It's important to maintain quality from the custodial worker to the Professor.

-- Not unless more faculty/staff can be hired. Facilities are busting at the seams, there's not enough faculty to cover class demands, and staff is stretched extremely thin.

-- neutral...

may question would be is the community of Stephenville ready for expansion and the diversity it would bring!

-- I believe it's great to increase our enrollment. However, if you keep increasing you will need to increase Staff in certain areas that need it. For instance, we need a stronger IT department. One that if we have issues it doesn't take weeks to get answers because they don't have the support staff to work through all the issues so they may push the less important ones to the back burner.

Also Enrollment Management Staff. There is 10,000+ students attending all five locations of Tarleton and few people in each department to handle the work load. Increase the staff so we can support all these students. We are way under par when comparing to other big university's in Texas.

-- I think the growth at Tarleton is awesome, but we also need to focus on the retention. The student that are here need to also be excited about being here and getting involved. I think that we need to also focus on their needs and helping them to be successful as well as our incoming students.

-- Yes, I believe the rate we have increased has been very helpful. Of course with more students, we should to hire more staff and faculty. It would be great if we could increase our students to over 15,000!

-- Only as the context of our local community can engage, support, and challenge the excellent tradition we have historically matched to the vision of our place and contribution to Texas and the larger world.

Statistic                  Value
Total Responses              54