5. To what student need should Tarleton respond? Please explain the reasoning/thinking behind your response.

Text Response

-- The need to provide a quality education at as an affordable cost as possible.
-- Tarleton should focus on the re-evaluate how we address the student advising, Student can read, what they need how can this degree help me to go into the desire field. ... Looking at Trio and Upwardbound, and how were are actually preparing these students to go to college. Everything they do must play into how they can be successful in spite of their circumstance or background. The class are great but what about financial aid, scholarship, the importance of references, studying skills, time management and student involvement (how to balance it all), and what are some the issues faced when you go off to college; if we are not doing that, then we are missing an opportunity... Begin looking at diversity with a wider lens because the needs of the community is changing in our perspective. We cannot teach others what we do not believe in ourselves, Too many employees opt out of what they don't agree with, and then get upset when students do this as well, not appropriate... When need to re-examine what we are holding onto, and why because many are not what we need to keep; in other words complete a SWOT Analysis that is authentic, and not what is easy or digestible to the body.

-- All student needs should be responded to. Period. no and, if, or but's.
-- Hiring enough faculty to compensate for growth. It's faculty and staff that make a university, not bricks, climbing walls, new gadgets that pass for innovative instruction.

-- more housing space
-- Student encouragement to do well. Students seem to be disconnected and the result is poor grades. I know higher education isn't about nurturing a student like in high school but I do believe there needs to be a certain human aspect to teaching, a feeling that the instructors/professors do have interest in students and do care about what is happening to them, at least as far as their schoolwork.
-- Tarleton should continue to focus on and grow the REAL program. This is a vital part in ensuring that our students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce.

The university should also put more focus on co-curricular programming. Funding for co-curricular funding continues to decrease each year, however, study after study proves that Student Life programming plays a huge factor in increased retention rates. Providing for these programs also opens the door for students to be more involved in the development and execution of campus programming - providing leadership and management skills.

Tarleton also needs to focus on Alcohol Education. This will not be a successful program unless it becomes a university-wide initiative and not just something tucked away in Rec Sports. I would guess that alcohol abuse is the main factor in Tarleton's low retention rates and I feel we will not win this battle until the entire university is on board.

-- I am not a student or a faculty member. I am not aware of what the students need at this time.
I have two main areas of concern from Tarleton students: Parking and Advising. The parking facilities are not nearly adequate for all the students at the Stephenville Campus. Many students have commented that a multi-level parking facility at the corner of Lillian and Washington streets would be ideal. As for advising, the comment that we hear the most is that the advisors (particularly for the Freshman and Sophomore level) have a very hands off, lackadaisical attitude. They just don't seem interested in the student as a person. This has a very negative impact on our retention.

More tenured faculty and less adjuncts. Why should a student pay "professor" prices for a course taught by an instructor with a master's degree. Might as well take an on-line course.

More classes at more times or on-line is one complaint I have heard. And as a Grad student also that is a complaint I have. Also, meeting space for student organizations is needed. Student organizations have no place to meet on most night because there isn't space. Either the student center needs to eliminate many of the offices it has to accommodate groups or we need to build space. The student center has become more of an office space than meeting space which should not be happening.

Quality of instruction. Enough instructors, enough classes and labs. It is imperative that the student get the quality education needed!! Best advertisement is by word of mouth. If your students set out and verbally trash this university because of the poor quality education the word passed by mouth to other perspective students or parents of perspective students could act against our institution and long rage could act gravely against us. What needs to be spread like wildfire is that we are an awesome university, we care about our kids and our curriculum. We care about the quality of education they get! We need to hear about how our professors and top ranking in the way they treat their students and that the tests for our degrees are standardized and comparable to other universities and what they give but Mr Paul Revere...He takes the time to sit with us and make sure we understand what we are being taught, He does not rush the curriculum. He makes sure we have all we need to do any labs, that we have an SI student to help us understand our curriculum. He give us every chance to win at our goals for our lives decision in what we have picked for our career. He knows where we can go to get the internships. He provides us with speakers, with fieldtrips, with possibilities in the way of future firms we may work with or for. Our classes offere REAL LIFE related instructions and information we can rely on taking out into the world!! We can use this class we can use this knowledge. We can win at this institution...too bad you are stuck where you are...TSU...its the bomb. Have the down to earth instructors that care about the curriculum. That know that allowing you a 3x5 recipe card to put usable notes on for a test will make you study like crazy just to find what you want to put on the card and they know that its not about how many students failed this test today but its about how many understood and how creative you were, in fact that you had them thirst for knowledge insted of hate it and decide they can accomplish nothing in life because they cannot pass your tests because your only goal is to see if you can prove how smart you are that you could ask the most difficult questions that only a small percent could get and then pass each test. Its not about intellectual snobbery its about a hunger and thirst for knowledge that makes your students the best in the Texas A&M System!! Its about a synergy you can only get from
Tarleton students need to feel as if they are respected as adults. They need to be allowed to make their own decisions and take responsibility when they make mistakes. In our effort to retain students, we are beginning to treat them like children, not like the adults that they are. This is not the way to produce responsible, productive members of society. If they graduate and they haven't grown up, we have not helped them.

The need to learn. That is why we exist. All of the co-curricular activities are nice, but the students are here to learn. Everything else is secondary. We need to provide state of the art facilities and instructors who WANT to be here.

Off campus site students need easier access to administrative offices.

Academic success.

The promotion of academic success should be the first and foremost priority for the University. The President should take EVERY opportunity he has to promote academic success and the vision for students' academic success. Instead we promote things that move students AWAY from academic success. There should be no higher priority than academic success. Yet we pour millions into pet projects while the EmpowerU website notes that Tarleton has the highest first year retention rate of all system (non-main) campuses. Yet our four and six year graduate rate plummets us to the bottom of the list. Stop making excuses such as "they transfer out" and recognize that Administration is not promoting academic engagement and success. Texan Tour/Welcome tours should be one of the first things a student encounters and instead of promoting non-academic endeavors, those individuals should be underscoring the importance of academic success.

Quality of instruction- use of a large number of adjuncts for a sustained period will diminish the quality of our programs.

Meaningful, plentiful, and diverse student programming must also be addressed. With growth comes diversity of our student needs. We correctly want a more diverse student population, but I have not seen our non-academic offerings change to accomodate the needs of increased numbers of foreign national students, inner city students, and other socio-economic groups.

I believe the student is the customer and none of us would have a job without them. We should treat them as such with outstanding customer service. They pay our salaries!

Parking seems to be the number one problem for students, due to the increase in growth.

I'm not sure what the question is asking, but we are an academic institution and we should focus on academics.

The shortage of staff support with the rapid growth results in poor customer service due to lack of knowledge and training by important roles being filled by student workers. Information Technology is one of the most important departments to keep the entire university functioning at a competitive level with up to date service and technology. The students and staff are lacking in adequate IT support. Housing, Financial Aid, and Admissions need to be re-evaluated to determine if the staff support is equivalent to the growth of the growing population.
Delivery of programs that develop and foster critical thinking skills. There is far too little student activism and engagement that typically defines a college campus as dynamic and diverse. The annual traditions that students gravitate toward are often just accepted rather than challenged. The campus community is not doing enough to challenge students' ideas of traditions.

we revive tutor track or another system that combines early alert system and links faculty and advising and student success. As faculty we cannot see what happens after an early alert. Its like a black hole. The system needs to talk with blackboard and banner somehow. as a student makes a failing grade, some alert needs to go out to the student that is "just in time" advice about what to do.

also I would like to see us use some metrics programs like Dr. McCaffrey talked about where we can determine success during the first week of classes based on behaviors or interactions with blackboard.

The number one complaint is always parking, parking, parking. All student services are important- housing, dining, advising, etc., but I have had many, many students tell me that parking is the #1 thing they dislike about Tarleton.

N/A

Better streets around the campus as with so many streets now closed the ones being used are to busy, accidents have doubled in the area. Many complaints have even gone to City Council members. Tarleton has caused a great many of these problems and should help fix in a timely manner.

Tarleton should respond more to non-traditional students. This population has returned to school and in some aspect need more mentoring and or advocating to assist with their success. For instance, most are apprehensive about returning to school and need a "go to" person while enrolled.

Updated/improved housing should be a addressed. On move-in day this year, I was a little surprised at the living conditions in some of the dorms. They are old and outdated.

They need to be educated on how to think for themselves. We need to provide an atmosphere that promotes self-discipline, not spoon feeding. The umbilical cord needs to be cut because when they get out there, they need to realize that not everyone will give them a helping hand or an easy way out. We need to build confidence in our students to ask good questions in class, and then step back and let them think about how to approach answering those questions. Too many come through this campus without proper critical thinking skills. They are our future. We cannot think for them forever.

Affordable student housing, close to campus. It should increase student safety, lower overall student costs, decrease tardiness relative to traffic flow, and improve the local housing market.

More friendly customer service in advising, registrar's office, financial aid, etc.

Parking seems to be one of the major problems for students, due to the continued increase in enrollement.

see above
Career placement. But, Career Services should only be a mechanism to manage students and human resource personnel of businesses. Each department should be help responsible for industry relations and post-baccalaureate academic relations. Career Services strives hard to meet the needs of students. But, it's impossible without the support of active academic colleges which cultivate, understand the value and maintains relationships with industry leaders or academic equals from other universities who can constantly convey various trends or quality of the students we're letting graduate. Tarleton is "all around it" in an independent fashion, but nobody really seems to know how to connect the two.

-- More housing.
-- Academic success.

Everything done by every department, or person at Tarleton should focus on the academic success of our students.

-- I think our students just want to stay informed. Better communication from the top down.

-- My personal opinion is that there seem to be too many social activities and not as much focus on the education piece. The students pay to come get an education and job skills. Sometimes, I think there is too much focus on other things and most are here to be serious about moving on in their lives. I can assure you, they will find their own way to relax or socialize. I am not sure we have to do it all for them.

-- I'm completely out of touch with student's "needs".

I would assume that the main need is ensuring that they actually receive an education that makes their investment worthwhile.

-- 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 dept 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 loose our ability to offer the unique and genuine desire to individualize. This makes us average and takes away from the above average.

-- Keeping the relationship personal, and not growing to the point that the individual is lost in the numbers. Right now, students come to TSU because they desire the small to mid size university, where they have a face and name. If we continue to increase enrollment, that personal aspect of our university will be lost.

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-- more dorm room and parking and more staff and room for a health center to be able to see students that are sick
The greatest need of the student is to foster adult values and characteristics. For example, they are in the process of growing and knowing more about themselves. They need help to reason, to decide for themselves, to accept responsibility for their decisions, and to develop life long values of ethics, commitment to their work, morals, and compassion for others, but also especially for themselves. They need to test their limits in a safe environment that allows them to find the courage to take the risk and grow.

I think the Financial Aid office is grossly understaffed. I don't work there, but I have worked in Financial Aid at two other universities totaling about 12 years and I can say with experience that Tarleton's Financial Aid office needs more staff.

The need for a quality education at a reasonable price. We need to look for ways to reduce costs to our students and continue to deliver a quality education. For example: why have a two year live on requirement? It costs students more money to live on campus than in the community. More debt accumulation at what benefit?

the minor students! especially the Mexican American and African American.

Mexican American need staff and faculty that mirrors them, organizations with a focus and meaning to be successful.

African American students need a voice, Greek life

We need to focus on once minor students are here. What do we have to offer.

Housing!! this is a big issue especially with our Transfer Students. A transfer student is completely different than an incoming freshman. Most of these students who are transferring to TSU have already lived on their own for quite some time and the last thing they want to do is live in a dorm when they transfer. I also feel it would open up housing for our Incoming freshman who could then live on campus for two years. if we don't do something soon about our housing then we will lose students.

Electronic. If you can't use a computer, looks like your future will be very bad.

A greater level of practical and personal integration of the accountability, excellent capability, and commitment to discipline, sacrifice, exemplary leadership, and personal integrity we always talk about as possibility, but too often fail to demand and require of those who graduate carrying forward our name, traditions, and legacy.

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