



TARLETON
STATE UNIVERSITY

Member of The Texas A&M University System

September 30, 2021

Dr. Eric Morrow
Box T- 0190
Tarleton State University

Dear Dr. Morrow,

In response to an inquiry from the Foundation of Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the Texas A&M University System has reviewed the status of the "Texas News Service". Their finding was that Texas News Service (TNS) was never established as an independent student publication at Tarleton. The only publication that operates in that capacity is the J-TAC.

Instead, their finding was that TNS was created and operated within the Department of Communication Studies to support communication and journalism education. It operates within the department as an instructional lab providing learning and internship experiences via university employment as Interns to Learn under the guidance of departmental faculty and departmental leadership. Specific courses using TNS for a laboratory experience include COMM 1316, COMM 2311, COMM 2333, COMM 3308, COMM 3317, and COMM 3318.

Given the interpretation of OGC, it is imperative that the TNS operate only as an instructional laboratory for students and interns. Please work with departmental leadership to assure operations are aligned with that understanding.

Sincerely,

Karen R. Murray, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs