



Office of General Counsel

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

September 30, 2021

Ms. Lindsie Rank  
Program Officer, Individual Rights Defense Program  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
510 Walnut Street, Suite 1250  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Via Facsimile 215-717-3440 & Email: [fire@thefire.org](mailto:fire@thefire.org)

Re: FIRE Letter dated August 30, 2021

Dear Ms. Rank:

Tarleton State University ("TSU") forwarded your August 30, 2021 letter to me for a response. After reviewing your letter, it is clear that there is a misunderstanding about the status of the *Texan News Service* ("TNS") at TSU. Your entire letter is predicated on the idea that the TNS operates as an independent student publication at TSU. That is simply not the case.

As you stated, the TNS was created in 2004 as a center within the Department of Communication Studies to support journalism education. TSU has never established TNS as an independent student publication. This is an administrative issue within the university that does not implicate any student journalists' rights or the First Amendment.

Respectfully,

Elinore T. Tecson  
Assistant General Counsel  
Litigation/Dispute Resolution

ET:th