Enrollment at Florida A&M University is at an all-time high.

But as FAMU prepares for restructuring — a code word for downsizing — President James Ammons has no intention of reducing the student population, even though there will be fewer faculty and staff to teach them.

"I think the worst thing that could happen to FAMU is our enrollment starts declining," Ammons said. "I would like for it to continue to grow, and to grow in those areas that we're going to invest in."

FAMU's enrollment skyrocketed by more than 8 percent for the 2010-2011 school year, to about 13,200 students. Just two years ago there were fewer than 12,000 full- and part-time students at FAMU.

"I don't know if we can sustain that rate of growth over a period of time," Ammons added. "The thing is, with the growth we have to do it in a focused way. We have to do it where we're not taxing the physical plant.

"We have capacity to grow in our graduate programs. I think as we move forward the focus has to be on places where we can accommodate growth without putting additional pressure on the university."

William Hudson Jr., interim vice president for student affairs, is convinced that FAMU can continue to add to its student body despite the financial challenges facing the administration.

"I don't think another 400 students would be a problem. I just want to make sure we can provide all the services students need, and I think that's what President Ammons wants to do," Hudson said.

It's important FAMU increase on-campus housing, Hudson said. He's optimistic that two dorms under renovation — Sampson and Young halls, both closed since 2003 — will be available by fall.