

Welcome to Faculty Senate!



Rob Maher
Professor, Faculty Senate Chair
Electrical & Computer
Engineering



Doug Downs
Professor, Faculty Senate
Chair-Elect
English

Faculty Senate Meeting Reminders

- Faculty Senate is an open and public meeting
- Please, only Senators speak in the meeting, unless you are specifically called on by the Chair or Chair-elect to speak
- Please let others speak; everyone should get a chance to speak before someone else speaks twice.
- Public may address the Senate during the designated public comment period.
- Be kind: always assume positive intent.

Approval of FS Minutes from February 18, 2026

- Do I have a motion to approve? Second?
- Any discussion?
- All those in favor of the motion indicate by saying aye
- Those not in favor of the motion indicate by saying nay
- Any abstaining?

FYI Updates

<i>Internal/MSU-Affiliated</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
FY27 Faculty Excellence Grants (FEG) - Round 1	3/13/2026
Montana NASA EPSCoR: 2026 - 2027 NASA Research Initiation Solicitation	3/20/2026
MSU Outreach and Engagement Council FY27 Outreach and Engagement Seed Grant	4/05/2026

- [Strategic Plan Listening Sessions for faculty:](#)
 - Tuesday, March 10, 1:45pm - 2:45pm Ballroom C
 - Wednesday, April 15, 3:15-4:15 Harrison 123 (just added—special for Faculty Senate, but all faculty invited)

FYI Updates (cont.)

- Spring break: March 16-20
- Registrar starts pre-registration for SU26 and FL26: March 25
- Investiture of President Brock Tessman: faculty procession
 - Thursday, April 2, 2026; arrive SUB 233/235, 2:30PM, in full regalia
 - [RSVP requested](#) by Monday, March 23, 2026

Undergraduate Courses and Programs

- Undergraduate Courses and Programs

- New Courses-**Second Read**

- [BMKT 480](#) : Advanced Marketing Analytics
- [CSCI 174](#) : Artificial Intelligence for Everyone
- [ECIV 467](#) : Steel Bridge Design/Build
- [EQUH 220](#) : Yearling Training and Development
- [MUSI 194](#) : Musical Pathways

- New Courses-First Read

- [ARTH 350](#) : Celtic and Viking Art and Legacy
- [ARTH 467](#) : Museums and the Ancient World: Pompeii as Museum
- [NASX 460IH](#) : Indigenous Environmental Humanities

- Undergraduate Courses and Programs (cont.)
 - Course Changes-**Second Read**
 - [ACT 282](#) : Personal Trainer Certification
 - Credit change from 2 to 1
 - [ARTH 302](#) : Survey of Hellenistic Art
 - Title change from Survey of Ancient Art
 - [CHTH 210](#) : Foundations of Community and Public Health
 - Title change from Foundations in Community Health
 - New learning outcomes
 - [HTH 455](#) : Ethics of Community Health
 - Title change from The Ethic of Care
 - Changes to learning outcomes
 - [HTR 298](#) : Hospitality Management Internship
 - New learning outcomes
 - Change in mode of delivery
 - [MCH 103](#) : Intro to Computer Aided Manufacturing
 - Title change from Lvl 1 Level 1 Immerse 2Learn
 - Change in credits from 2 to 3
 - New learning outcomes
 - [SFBS 429](#) : Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Food and Health
 - New learning outcomes

- Undergraduate Courses and Programs (cont.)
 - New Programs-First Read
 - [-BS](#) : Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
 - [-C](#) : Food Security Certificate
 - Program Inactivations-First Read
 - [AMER-BA](#) : Bachelor of Arts in American Studies
 - Low enrollment in major

Graduate Courses and Programs

• Graduate Course Changes-**Second Read**

- Rubric change from HDCO to COUN
 - [COUN 505](#) : Professional Issues in School Counseling
 - [COUN 506](#) : School Counseling Programs
 - [COUN 524](#) : Crisis Counseling: Theory and Practice
 - [COUN 525](#) : Counseling Children & Adolescents
 - [COUN 526](#) : Adventure Counseling
 - [COUN 530](#) : Mind-Body Well-Being Self-Care
 - [COUN 540](#) : Mental Health, Identity Development, and Understanding
 - [COUN 550](#) : Counseling Research and Evaluation
 - [COUN 551](#) : Appraisal
 - [COUN 554](#) : Develop Theory Across Lifespan
 - [COUN 558](#) : Career Counseling
 - New learning outcomes
 - [COUN 564](#) : Diagnosis and Mental Health
 - Changes to learning outcome verbs
- [ERTH 516](#) : Geology of the Northern Rocky Mountains
 - Title change from North Rocky Mtn Geology
 - Changes to outcomes
- [ERTH 524](#) : K-14 Earth System Science
 - Changes to learning outcomes
- [FILM 512](#) : SNHF Sound
 - Change in number from 581
 - Title change
- [LRES 525](#) : Applied Remote Sensing
 - Credit change from 2 to 1
 - New learning outcomes
- [M 505](#) : Principles of Mathematical Analysis
 - New learning outcomes
- [M 512](#) : Geometry & Algebraic Topology
 - New learning outcomes
- [NUTR 540](#) : Nutrition Education and Counseling
 - New learning outcomes
- [PHSX 511](#) : Astronomy for Teachers
 - Changes to learning outcomes
 - Change in mode of delivery
- [PHSX 571](#) : Electric Circuits and Magnetism for Teachers
 - Changes to learning outcomes
- [PHSX 579](#) : Special Relativity for Teachers
 - Changes to learning outcomes
- [PHSX 584](#) : Physics by Inquiry: Light & Color for Teachers
 - Changes to learning outcomes
- [PHSX 597](#) : Physics of Sustainable Energy for Teachers
 - Title change from Physics of Renewable Energy for Teachers
- [PSPP 521](#) : Plant Science for Teachers: It Grows on You
 - New learning outcomes
- [SFBS 552](#) : State of the Food Environment
 - New learning outcomes
- [STAT 536](#) : Time Series Analysis
 - New learning outcomes

- Graduate Course Inactivations-**Second Read**
 - [MB 536](#) : Exploring Microbiology
 - No longer taught due to lack of demand. Related programs are okay with the inactivation.

Public Comment

(Two minutes per person)

Information Updates

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): Student Mental Health



Dr. Laura Thum
Director
CAPS

MSU Student Mental Health



Let's
talk
about
it.

Laura Santa Thum, Ph.D., Director

Student Wellness Services for Students

Betsy Asserson, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Student Wellness

1st Floor

- Campus Recreation entrance
- Basic Needs Office
- Pharmacy

2nd Floor

- Student Health Services
 - Free office visits for illness, well-check, etc.
 - STI Testing, other labs, immunizations, minor injuries, X-rays

3rd Floor

- Dental Services
- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)





Counseling and Psychological Services

- Prevention and educational programming
 - Suicide prevention, departmental trainings, MHFA
- Free and confidential counseling services for students
 - Individual, group, couples
 - Crisis intervention
 - Let's Talk drop-in hours

CAPS Data

	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	% change
Unique Clients	1183	1208	2.0%
Total Counseling Appts.	4071	4526	11.1%

- 28% were Freshman students
- Decline in number of crisis appointments
- Top 5 reasons for seeking counseling:
 - Anxiety, Stress, Depression, Family/Relationships, Motivation

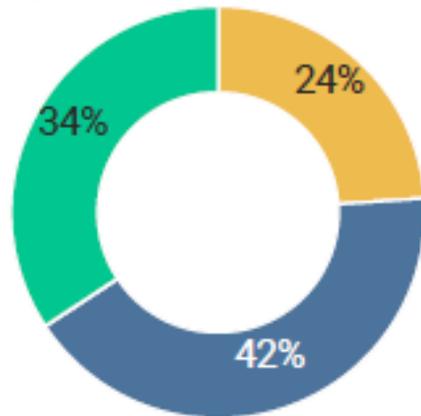
Mental health data: Loneliness

MSU Healthy Minds Study 2023
n = 1686; response rate = 14%

How often do you feel...

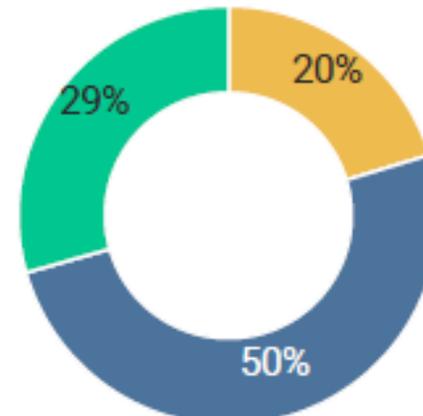
...that you lack companionship?

1568 Responses



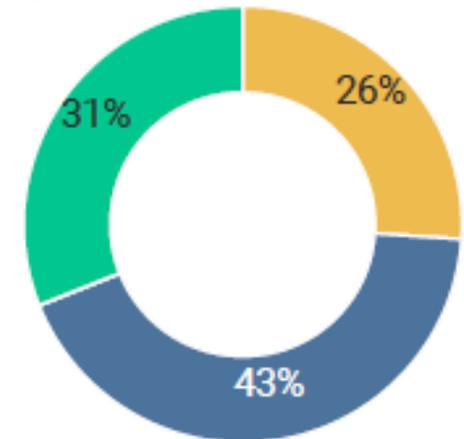
...left out?

1568 Responses



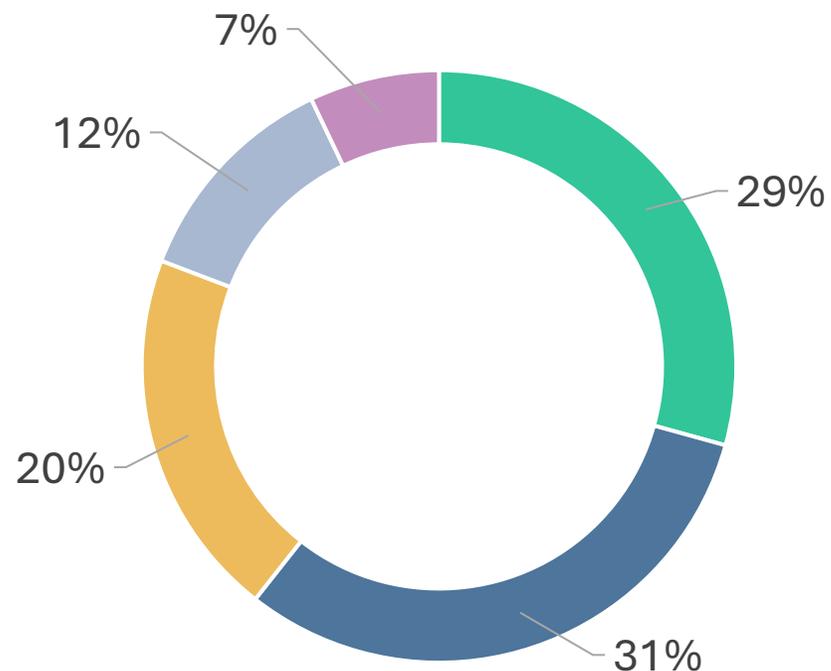
...isolated from others?

1567 Responses



● Often ● Some of the time
● Hardly ever

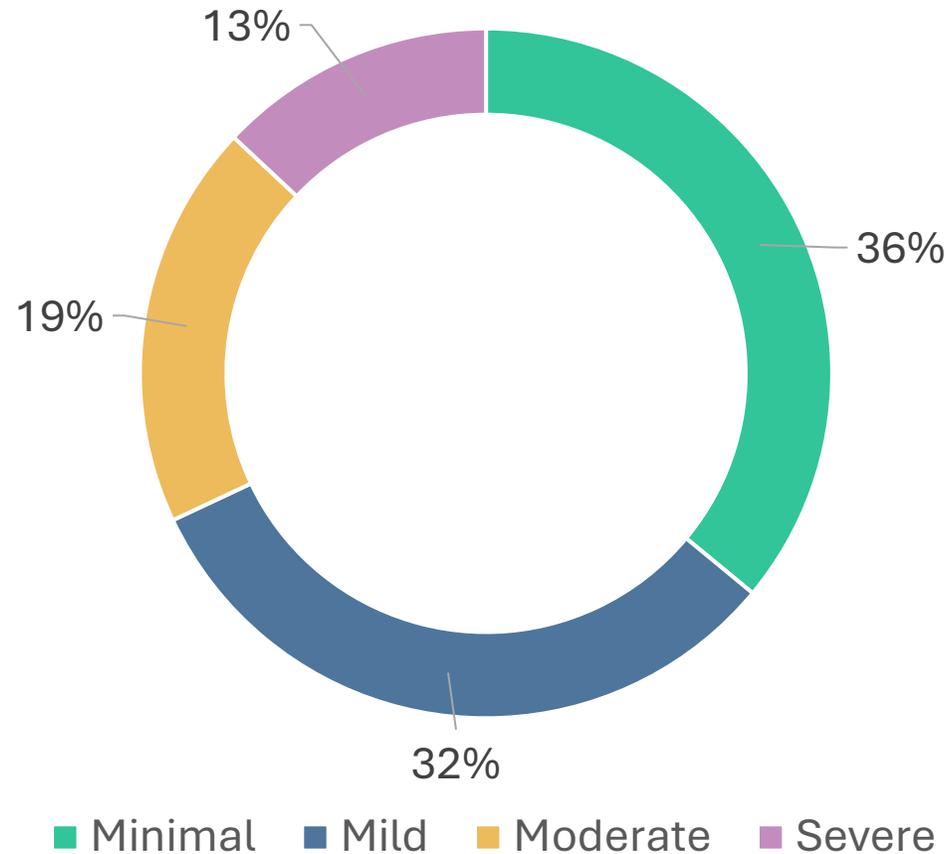
Mental health data: Depression



■ Minimal ■ Mild ■ Moderate ■ Moderately Severe ■ Severe

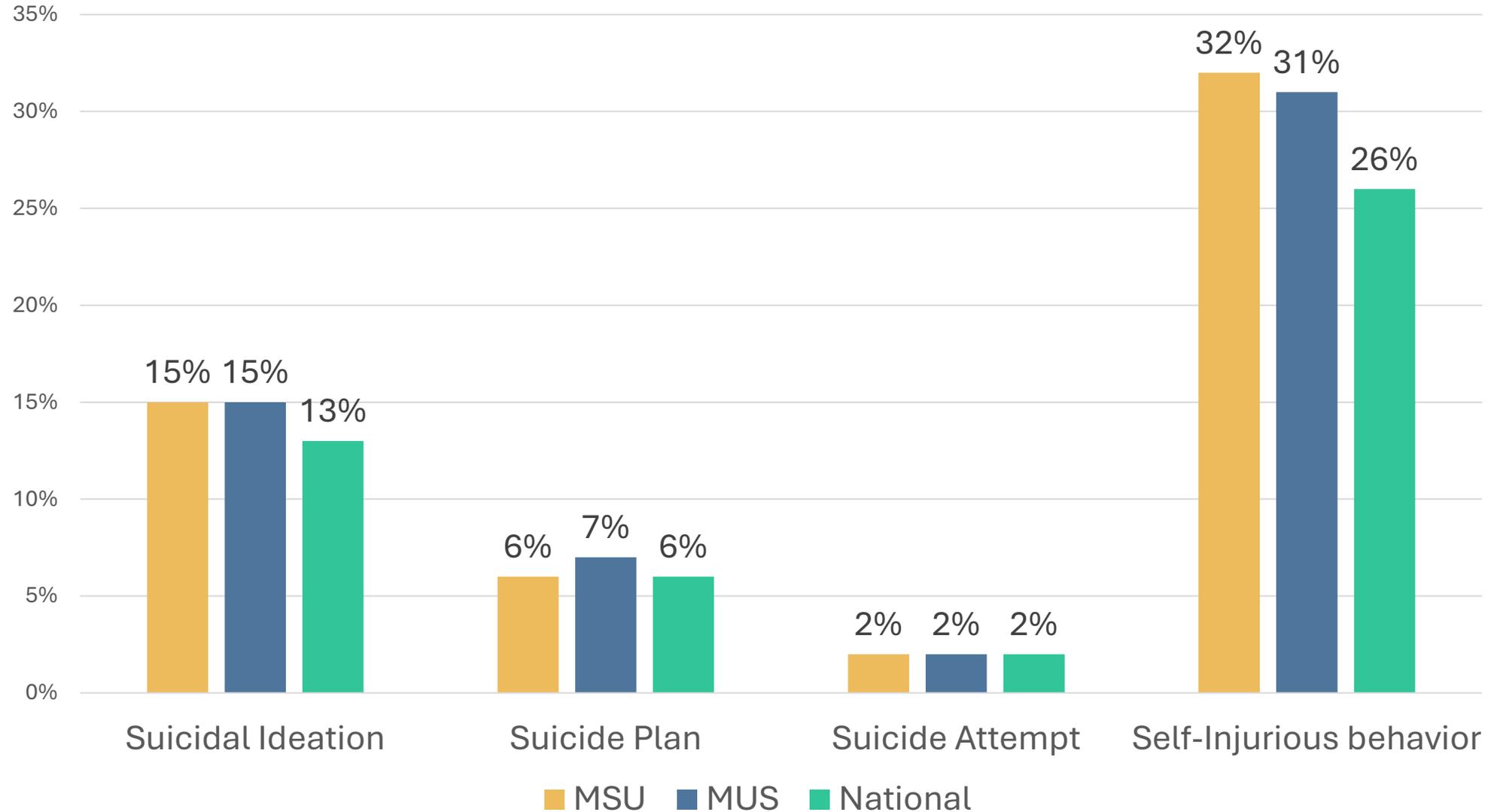
- Depression measured using a standard depression screening instrument (PHQ-9)
- MSU: 39% moderate to severe
- Comparable to national and peer samples

Mental health data: Anxiety

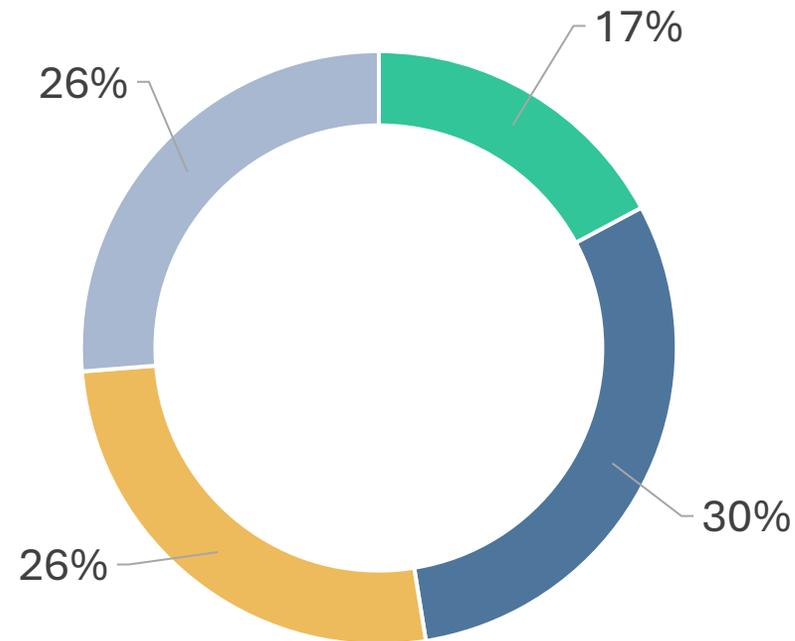


- Anxiety measured using a standard screening instrument for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD 7)
- MSU: 33% moderate to severe anxiety
- Comparable with national and peer sample

Suicidality and self-harm (past year)



Academic impacts



■ None ■ 1-2 days ■ 3-5 days ■ 6 or more days

In the past four weeks, how many days have you felt that emotional or mental difficulties have hurt your academic performance?

- 83% of MSU sample endorsed this item compared to 77% nationally

Academic impacts: Help-seeking

If mental health was affecting your academics, who at your school would you reach out to?

- 31% No one
- 30% Faculty/Professor
- 21% Academic Advisor
- 2% Teaching Assistant
- 9% Student Services Staff
- 3% Dean of Students or Class Dean
- 3% Other

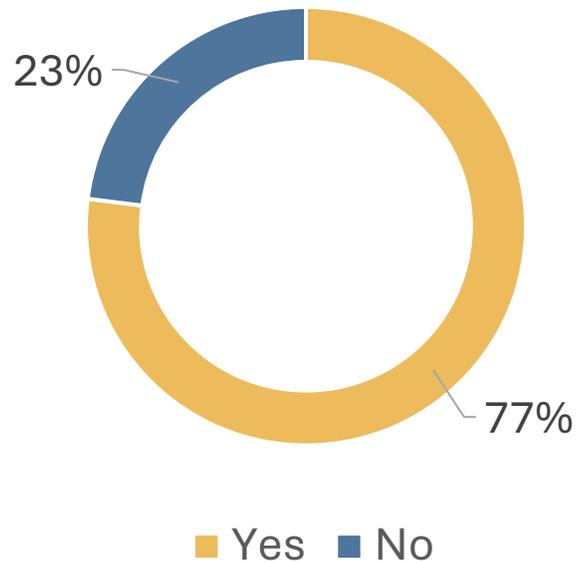
Healthy Minds Study: Faculty/Staff

- Piloted in 2021
- 30 schools in 2023-24
- MSU distributed to all faculty
 - n=272 (260 identified as faculty)
 - 27.2% response rate

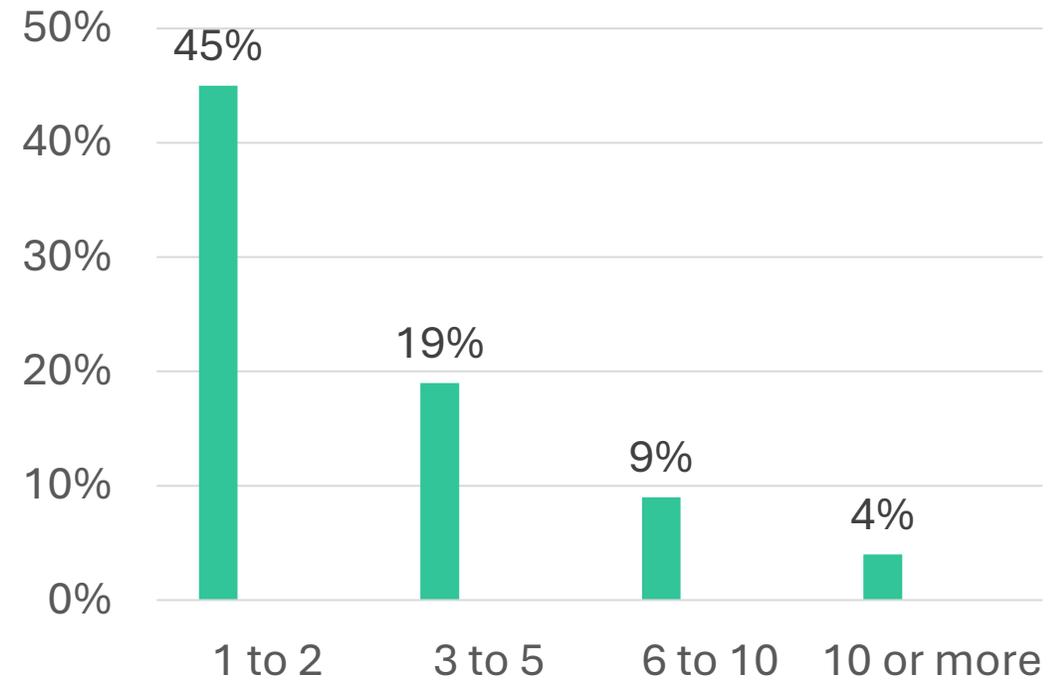


Faculty Referrals for Mental Health

In the past 12 months, have you referred a student to mental health services?



If yes, how many students did you refer?



Support for faculty/staff

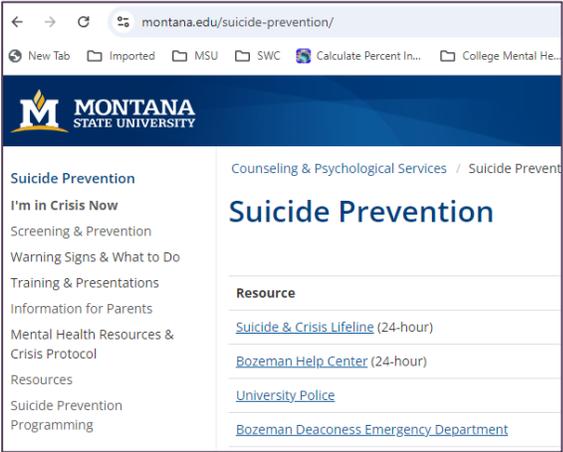
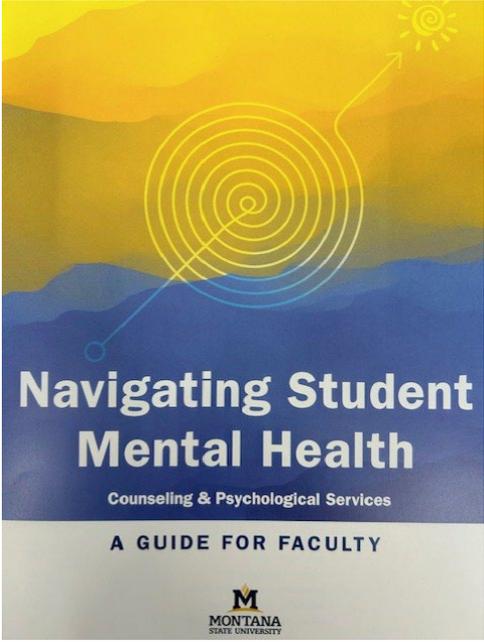
Training



Mental Health
FIRST AID



Resources



SOS MindWise for Suicide Prevention

- 30-minute online training
- Skills to recognize and support a student
- Goal: 3,000 trained in 2025-26
- bit.ly/msumindwise to learn more.





Questions?

Laura.thum@montana.edu

CAPS (406) 994-4531

www.montana.edu/wellness/counseling

Information Updates: Faculty Senate Bylaws

Committee:

- Doug Downs (chair)
- Jen Boles
- Susanne Cowan
- Chris Posbergh
- Sara Rushing

Documents ready to share with Senators:

- Clean PDF (to be distributed shortly)
- [Sharepoint version for comments/corrections/additions](#)

Information Updates: Faculty Senate Bylaws

- Preamble – adding one
- II . 1 – Purpose additions
- II . 2 – Policy development purview updates
- **III . 1 . A** -- Add a Non-Tenure Gallatin College constituency / rep?
- **III . 2 .** -- Recommend deleting the statement that reps "will generally be tenured faculty"
- III . 3 . Elections – broaden voting period to elect reps, April --> 1st week of Fall
- **III . 4 . Terms of Service** – Consider eliminating the 2-term limit for reps
- **IV . 3 . B Chair-Elect election** – Add timeline with 2 weeks' notice of elections and nominees / self-nominees

Faculty Senate Bylaws (cont.)

- Senators: please provide feedback to the bylaws committee by Monday, March 23
- First reading of revised bylaws will be at our next meeting (March 25)
- Second reading/ratification will be at the subsequent meeting (April 8)

Informational Updates: Council reports?

- University Council
 - First reading of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) policy
 - Update from the library on services and opportunities

Senate Open Discussion

Do I have a motion to adjourn?
Second?

Next meeting: March 25, 2026