

Senate Mental Health Committee

Submitted by: Terry Dibble, Co-Chair
June 18, 2026

2025-2026 Senate Mental Health Committee members:

Co-chairs

Jessie Hurse - CO-CHAIR (Assoc Dean of Students & Deputy Title IX Coordinator)

Terry Dibble (SHS) - CO-CHAIR

Committee Members

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The committee met monthly between September 30, 2025, and June 3rd, 2026. We will be meeting during the summer to prepare for the JED Campus Project.

Charges

1. **To gather information on all mental health services currently available (how they operate, their availability, cost, capacity)**

2. To assess mental health issues and needs on campus.

Though these two charges are listed as separate steps, they were often incorporated together as the committee worked to discover the larger mental health picture on campus.

Committee members gathered information from their own departments and reported in so we could get an idea of what mental health services OU provides and where and how. Materials such as flyers, links, posters, research articles, and surveys about mental health at OU were shared and read. Members also spoke to mental health professionals at outside institutions and did benchmarking work to see how other institutions approach mental health. Many members also added to our robust Google Drive shared file with relevant research and articles that have helped steer our discussions and decisions.

As a committee, we also researched the JED Campus program through the JED Foundation and voted to recommend it to the Senate. We especially value the strategic plan it offers a committee like ours. It is our view that this kind of plan would help make the most of our committee and give us directions about how to unify our somewhat siloed campus in terms of mental health initiatives, services, and culture.

Along with this work, the co-chairs and committee members gathered information by having meetings and speaking with members of different departments of the OU Community, including REACH program (Sara Beckett), Suicide Prevention Walk (Celeste Huff) JED Program (Kelly Laker) Withdrawal Deadline Policy Proposal (Neil Baumgartner) RecWell (Cortney Heilman) JED (Provost Thompson) International Student Support Group (Petra Knoche)

3. To gather information on the various OU web pages that have information on mental health support services, and to organize that information to be more easily accessible and visible by supervising the creation of one main web page that can be accessed from the main OU home page.

4. To promote and advocate for the mental health needs of the OU community (faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students) by making recommendations to the University Senate.

Plans for 2026-2027:

- Terry Dibble and Jessie Hurse will continue as co-chairs.
- Review and edit charges as necessary (now that we are a standing committee).
- Continue to work on and refine the website.
- Pursue a “mental health” designation for calendar items.
- Check in with departments about their mental-health needs during the school year.
- Report to the Senate with these needs.

-Implement the JED Campus program.

Recruit committee members for the JED Program Task Force.