

Director addresses questions about policy changes

■ **CONSENT:** The Women's Center has been dealing with confusion about changes to the conduct code

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

The proposed changes in the University student conduct code have generated a steady influx of questions this school year, so Women's Center Director Sho Shigeoka addresses some common misconceptions and questions about the proposed policy changes.

Q What are some common questions and/or concerns the Women's Center staff has been asked about the policy over the past few months?

A One striking (rather than common) question asked was when a

female called the center asking for an actual copy of a consent form, a form like the *Emerald* suggested [in an editorial]. She was concerned because she was going out on a date and thought something might happen, so she wanted to get ahead of a consent form. People are still believing that this "explicit consent" has to be a definite "yes" in writing or an agreement that is very explicit, but the [proposed] language is not limited to written consent or verbal consent.

Q Do you think it would be a good idea to have a form like that?

A I don't want to trash the idea altogether because if that works for certain people, it's okay — I know people communicate differently, and when we talk about communication we're talking about so many different things, including verbal, body language, sign language and different cultural innuendo that has to be taken into considera-

tion. I don't think it's right for anyone to say one way of communication should be the way. For example, to have a consent form could be a way for people to talk about sex. We all have different communication styles, so communication should be up to us.

Q As the Director of the Women's Center, have you encountered any other misconceptions people have?

A The biggest question is about consent. The second biggest is about the definition of rape because the proposed definition is a lot different than the state of Oregon's definition of rape. The state statutes address sexual intercourse, and that's all. Nothing is written about penetration or other specifics. For example, for rape in the first degree, physical resistance has to be proven, but nothing similar to that is currently in the student conduct code. A lot of people are wondering — including the

ACLU — what to do if someone is found guilty of rape according to the [revised] student conduct code but not under the Oregon statute(s). This is an issue that definitely needs to be looked into even further, although I like the proposed definition of rape because it's more inclusive. But the *Register-Guard* and *The Oregonian* have generally been writing nasty and uninformed articles saying that it's a bunch of administrators who are trying to implement this rule so that we could control students, but the fact is, it wasn't the University who began working on the proposed changes, it was students. So that is another main misconception people have — after all, students first did the research and came up with the first draft of the proposed language.

I find it sad to know how people are undermining students and their power. Students came up with the idea, so I think students should go for it and see it through.

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— Sho Shigeoka
Women's Center Director

Q So you think media coverage is inaccurate overall thus far?

A Outside of campus, I think more rumors than factual information circulates. On the opinion pages, people really don't take the time to get all the facts straight. Myths about sexual assault and rape appear in these "factual" places. True rape education is ignored as the "hot" topic of "consent" is thrown around.

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4:00	Body Sculpting 220 GER		Body Sculpting 220 GER		
5:00		Body Sculpting 220 GER		Body Sculpting 220 GER	
5:15		Low Imp. Aerobics 352 GRX		Low Imp. Aerobics 352 GRX	
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