

## **SOKOLOW'S RULE OF CONSENT**

In order for individuals to engage in sexual activity of any type with each other, there must be clear consent. Consent is shared sexual permission. Consent can be given by word or action, but non-verbal consent is less clear than talking about what you want and what you don't. Consent to some form of sexual activity cannot be automatically taken as consent to any other sexual activity. Silence--without actions demonstrating clear permission--cannot be assumed to show consent. There is a difference between seduction and coercion. Coercing someone into sexual activity violates university policy just as much as physically forcing someone into sex. Coercion happens when someone unreasonably pressures someone else for sex. When alcohol or other drugs are being used, someone will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot appreciate the who, what, when, where, why, or how of a sexual interaction. Individuals who consent to sex must be able to understand what they are doing. You will do well to keep in mind that because of this, "No" always means "No," and "Yes" may not always mean "Yes."

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