

**TO: Brother Ronald Gallagher, President
Beth Dobkin, Provost**

**FROM: Steve Cortright, Chair
Academic Senate**

DATE: October 1, 2010

**RE: Senate Action S-10/11-2
Resolution to Censure the Administrative Decision
to Override the January Term Committee**

At the September 30, 2010 meeting of the Academic Senate, the following Resolution was approved by a vote of 6-1 with one abstention. This action was assigned Senate Action # S-10/11-2.

WHEREAS, the spirit of shared governance requires, among other considerations, a firm adherence of all College entities to the principle that the faculty is the body chiefly responsible for the administration of the curriculum to the students,

WHEREAS, for the purpose of administering the curriculum to the students, the Faculty Handbook establishes (1.7.4.11) a faculty committee and certain procedures by which proposals for the several courses offered during the January Term are vetted, evaluated, and approved or disapproved, according to approved and published criteria,

WHEREAS, the special considerations due in the evaluation of travel courses require the committee to be particularly careful in its decision to approve such courses,

WHEREAS, the senior administration of Saint Mary's College has overturned the considered judgment of the January Term Committee by fiat, for reasons other than pedagogical, impartial, and prudential,

WHEREAS, we affirm that the decisions of faculty committees with curricular responsibility should in practice be overturned only if there is some evidence that established procedures have been ignored or applied unfairly, that is, when the committee's procedure has *failed*, rather than when the procedure has returned a result distasteful to some one person or group of persons,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate censures strongly the decision of academic administrators to override the Committee's decisions, and notes that the repetition of such autocratic administrative actions invites faculty to withhold their participation in the institution of "shared governance."

cc: Frances Sweeney, Vice Provost
Sue Fallis, January Term Director