

## Pharmacy

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ther recommendations before considering the report.

"Winning allies over here in the General Assembly is going to be good for them," Jackson said.

Although the two schools' boards of trustees have the authority to make the decision to merge, student leaders said raising awareness among legislators is crucial because of their influence with the Commission on Higher Education.

"I think the legislators can encourage the board of trustees mem-

bers to take a closer look at this and also to get the message out that this is not a smart decision for the state of South Carolina,"

Amick said.

The students have also earned the support of faculty members, some of whom were present for Thursday's rally. Together they argued that because the report's authors only spent one day on USC's campus and didn't observe the school's interactions with Richland Memorial Hospital and Dorn VA Hospital, the resulting recommendations are based on inaccurate pretenses.

"In fairness to Dr. Sorensen I think he relied heavily on the report written by the three deans who visited the campus, and in my opinion that report is incomplete, inaccurate and perhaps misleading at times," USC pharmacy profes-

sor Gene Reeder said.

USC President Andrew Sorensen and Raymond Greenberg, president of the

Medical University of South Carolina, support most of the report's recommendations but not a complete termination of pharmacy education at USC. Sorensen's support stems from a vision to increase biomedical research in South Carolina by combining the strengths of both programs to eliminate duplication in clinical education. The statewide vision would direct all pharmacy funding to one institution with the top researchers from both schools at work.

Sorensen uses California as an example of streamlined curriculum. The state has two public pharmacy schools and a population of 35 million people, while South Carolina has two public pharmacy schools and a population of 4 million. California also has five private pharmacy schools.

Opponents argue that USC has the higher quality academics of the two schools and should be the host site if any merger is to take place.

"We don't need to build new

facilities, because we have the capacity to accommodate the number of students recommended right here at USC," third-year professional student Jenny Patel said. Her fellow alliance members said USC is also a better location because of its inclusion in a large, comprehensive campus.

"We're saying the program should be here, but we're also worried about MUSC and their students too," third-year professional student Bryan Mayer said. "The main concern is patient safety and patient health care in South Carolina. We have to ensure that whatever program gets through that the best pharmacists are graduating there."

The report doesn't recommend an increase in total enrollment after the merger, and alliance members said that makes a merger completely unnecessary when the state is facing a pharmacist shortage.

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## Oratorio

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before the Varna International Conductors Workshop.

While other groups will have the opportunity to perform "The Martyrdom of Polycarp" in the future, it will be exclusively for the USC Concert Choir for the time being.

Traveling and performing with the Concert Choir is an orchestra composed of 15-20 USC Band and Symphony members.

Ridgley and Krueger both acknowledge the notability this oratorio can bring to USC as it was written specifically for Wyatt, something that will be mentioned in future performances.

Cairns wrote the text, or libretto, to the music. Cairns and

Redford will provide an open forum on the compositional process and the oratorio at First Presbyterian Church Saturday morning in the church's lecture hall. This forum will be free and open to the public.

Solo artists will act out the major roles while the main choir will act as a chorus and advance the plot. The Columbia Children's Choir will sing as one character on Sunday's performance. Altogether the oratorio includes about 80 singers.

Redford has worked on projects with Disney, including work on the score for "The Jungle Book II." Along with "The Martyrdom of Polycarp," Redford has recently composed music for the new Disney "Winnie the Pooh" film.

**According to choral professor Carol Krueger, an oratorio is a story told through song, but does not include spoken text.**

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