If one accepts Gov. John West's interpretation, the report of a special study committee on health care may well be a first step toward a second medical school.

If so, it will come as a surprise to most of the committee members. The report recommended a second medical school only if federal funds should become available. None are provided in President Nixon's budget, and the prevailing view on the committee apparently is reflected by Sen. Allen Carter of Charleston, who considers a second medical school "a dead issue."

It was apparently the insistence of Sen. Walter Bristow of Columbia that got the committee to recommend a second medical school even with federal funds. Bristow, a Harvard Law School graduate, not only is the son of a doctor, but he is law partner of T. Eaton Marchant, chairman of the board of trustees of the University of South Carolina.

There is intense political rivalry about a second medical college between Columbia and USC and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston.

Bristow was appointed by West to fill a vacancy on the committee after deliberations had begun. Bristow attended his first meeting in January. A draft had been written that failed to recommend a second medical school under any conditions, but the committee was unable to reject Bristow's logic about a second medical school if federal funds are available.

Carter pointed out last week that the committee certainly favored acceptance of "A gift of" a medical school, but he also made it clear he considers such a gift unlikely.

A central issue is fear by MUSC that a second medical school would compete for scarce state funds. The report pointed out that MUSC was accredited for only three years instead of the usual seven. Concern about the adequacy of financial support and the quality of teaching resources were cited by the survey team two years ago.

West said last week that the state "can and should afford" two schools.

South Carolina has 85 physicians for each 100,000 persons, compared with 137 nationally. In North Carolina the comparable figure is 103 and in Georgia it is 101.

This, no matter what action South Carolina takes for better dispensal of doctors—and some positive things are being done—there will remain a shortgage.

Although no federal funds are included in President Nixon's budget for next year, Congress last year authorized $175 million for eight new medical schools in conjunction with Veterans Administration hospitals.

The same act also authorized additional funds for existing medical school affiliated with VA hospitals, which would include MUSC.

The President's budget includes $26 million for a new VA hospital in Columbia.

Existing facilities there could be converted by the VA into a state medical school, under a provision of last year's congressional act.

West is convinced that the federal funds will be appropriated for this program, either this year or later. He points out that delivery of medical care is a major national issue, that more doctors will be required and this will require more schools to train them.

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Just what is Contemporary University?

CU has two basic components—Independent Study Projects and Seminars. The Seminars provide the "community of scholars" aspects of CU and effectiveness in the experiential learning experiences which each is the independent study project.

SEMINARS

Seminars come in two flavors: research seminar and general interest seminar, located vertical and horizontal respectively.

Horizontal Seminars. Each participant in CU is assigned to a horizontal seminar group at the beginning of the semester. The seminars are directed by CU staff members and are designed to assist the participant in his program development by exposing him to the problems encountered by and the achievements of the other seminar members in pursuit of their project goals. Outside experts are invited to these seminars to offer support to the participant making his presentation.

Vertical Seminars. As many as fifteen or twenty vertical seminars are scheduled by the staff each semester. The topics are determined by the interests of the group, and range from such things as "Civil Psychology" and "Animal Welfare," to "Nutrition," "Business ethics," and "Organic Chemistry." They are run by faculty members, staff members, and CU participants, or by anyone having a knowledge of and interest in a topic. Replicated by CU participants, in CU attend two or more vertical seminars each week throughout the semester.

Questions and Answers

What would I do if I were in CU this semester?

You would design and carry out a research project or a year of study oriented to your own special interest. Each student group would be allotted an amount of time which could count toward your major or minor. In all of this which could count toward your major. Specific credit breakdowns are determined in advance and are subject to review by the departments or school involved.

Can someone be included in CU?

Yes. Requirements are minimal as far as your academic standing is concerned. They include a 3.0 average for the last two semesters in college, or a score of 700 on the SAT, or an equivalent ACT score.

Can I do my independent study without living in CU?

Yes, you could. You can receive your degree without living in CU, but you will have to pass your thesis defense on the oral examination and the dissertation. OOP is not a criteria for CU admission.

Can I do the independent study without being in CU?

Yes. You could do your independent study without being in CU, but you will have to take your independent study course as a thesis requirement and your dissertation. OOP is not a criteria for CU admission.

Is it a day independent study without being in CU?

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Do I get credit for the vertical and horizontal seminars?

No. That's the case at it.

Are there any special fees involved in being in CU?

No, you register and pay just as you do in any other student. All other necessary funds are paid to extramural experiences in addition to tuition.

Black Students Form Statewide Alliance

Black students from five colleges and universities in South Carolina organized this weekend a State Alliance of Black Students.

The group of about 25 students met Saturday and Sunday on USC campus to "create and establish a network of lines of communication between blacks on various campuses throughout South Carolina," Wallace Cunningham, a group spokesman, said.

Cunningham, a University student, said the group will be able to implement activities pertaining to blacks on a larger scale and more effectively than individual schools could. They will undertake efforts similar to the Martin Luther King scholarship drive and the Sickie Cell Anemia Drive held at USC this year, he said.

This weekend the alliance worked out a basic format and constitution and established five standing committees—scholarship, finance, coordinating, communication, and activities.

School's represented were the University of South Carolina, Benedict, Morris, Francis Marion and Columbia Colleges.