A rumor is currently circulating at Brown that we are going to eliminate the Minority Peer Counseling Program (MPC) and the Third World Transition Week (TWTW) which are two elements of our Student Support Program (SSP). This rumor is not correct. No one in the Brown University Administration has even suggested that we think about eliminating these programs.

Though it is difficult to be sure how rumors get started, I suspect that this one began with some complaints from students who were not participants in the programs. Dean McIntosh, who with Dean Ashley and Mr. Hicks is responsible for all SSP programs, then encouraged an open discussion among concerned students in an effort to educate them about the history of these programs and the need for their continuation. These programs have their origins in social conditions that were clear to all students a decade ago, and though the conditions facing many minority students entering a predominantly white institution have not changed radically, the times have changed. It seems clear that discussion of special programs must continue in the future if the community is to understand and accept them and if the programs themselves are to remain vital. I want to repeat again, however, that no one is contemplating the elimination of these programs.

If anyone has further questions about the TWTW, MPC or any of the other SSP programs, I encourage them to contact me or Dean McIntosh.

WEM/mef
cc: Dean McIntosh