

From: [Kevin Carman](#)
To: [Edward Seidel](#); [Kermit C Brown](#); [Ray Stuart Fertig III](#)
Cc: [Scott Turpen](#)
Subject: Fact check
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:30:50 AM

Statements in the Cowboy State Daily attributed to Chad Baldwin suggest that he has been given information that is not accurate or complete. Below I highlight two components of the article that were a misleading (1) or false (2) as it relates to my involvement in matters regarding former Dean Wright:

1. "...it was Carman who asked Wright and Allen to sign the MOU..." While this is technically true, I was following a direct order from Pres. Seidel. In a July 22, 2024 email to VP Chitnis and me, Pres. Seidel stated that he wanted the following action regarding CEPS (among many other things): *"An MOU between CEPS and SoC, signed by the Provost and appropriate parties, so that if the SoC moves out of CEPS, it will be still be clear that the funds in question continue to be used to support goals of CEPS, regardless of who may be leading at any time in the future. This should finalized and signed by Sept 15, 2024. You need to have this and to be able to argue why this benefits CEPS (and it clearly does)."* The "funds in question" were the \$500k allocation of Tier 1 funds for the School of Computing. I drafted the MOU and it was reviewed and approved by VP Kean and Pres. Seidel. On August 28 I sent an email to Dean Wright and Director Allen with the MOU attached, requesting their signatures. VP Kean and Mandy Gifford were cc'd. Director Allen signed and returned the memo on the same day. As you know now, Dean Wright did not sign the memo.
2. "...on Sept. 19, 2024, Seidel and Carman "clarified" that Wright didn't have to sign the MOU..." This is false, at least as it relates to me. In a Sept. 5, 2024 email to VP Chitnis and me and copied to GC Evans and Kelsey Kyne, Pres. Seidel stated the following: *"Given the recent actions by the Dean of CEPS, and the complexity of the situation to determine next steps, i want to be clear that I will not have discussions with any of you regarding either SoC nor CEPS, particularly while the current process is underway. So during this time, please don't bring to me any topics to discuss on these matters and I will do the same."* It is reasonable to assume that Pres. Seidel sent this message on the advice of GC Evans. On Sept. 18, 2024, Dean Wright, his attorney, GC Evans, and I met in my office to discuss Dean Wright's objections to signing the MOU. Almost all the of the discussion was between GC Evans and Dean Wright's attorney. Toward the end of the hour, GC Evans asked Dean Wright and his attorney if it would help if Dean Wright didn't have to sign the MOU. Everyone, including me, was stunned. As noted above, President Seidel was insistent that the MOU be signed. But I was not allowed to discuss this with Pres. Seidel per his directive of Sept. 5. GC Evans did not discuss this with me further and I had no idea that a decision had been made to remove the requirement for Dean Wright to sign the MOU until I read it in recent media publications. I checked my email records and confirmed that no message was sent to Dean Wright on Sept. 19. I also recently asked former Dean Wright if I communicated to him at any time that he would not need to sign the MOU. He said I did not. The suggestion that Pres. Seidel and I communicated this message to former Dean Wright also makes no sense as it would be in direct contradiction

to his Sept. 5 message noted above. That said, I don't know if Pres. Seidel communicated with Dean Wright regarding the MOU (or anything else). I do know that I did not tell Dean Wright that he did not have to sign the MOU.

Note that Pres. Seidel's COI agreement states that all matters regarding the School of Computing will be managed by the provost. Clearly that wasn't happening. Who could be assuming this authority?

After reading the Cowboy State Daily article I emailed Chad Baldwin and inquired about the misleading and factually incorrect statements. In his response he stated "I am delivering the messages I have been given to deliver." This begs the question, who is telling him what to say and what is the motive for providing misleading and false information?

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