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CONTRACT, cont. from p. 1

Alongside Bontly's suggestions about gathering input for potential university presidents, he asked the board to consider appointing a faculty member as a voting representative in the Board of Trustees.

Cantor acknowledged the public comments from the three faculty members who spoke about the need for greater input. The new board chair thanked the speakers and said additional input wasn't required for the contract extension.

"The university bylaws set forth as a robust process for the selection of a new president and provides for participation by members of the university community. That process is separate and distinct from the decision we have before us now, which is whether to extend a sitting university president's contract. This decision rests solely with the board," Cantor said.

During public comment before the announcement, Morrell brought up article 15 of the university bylaws which establishes a 15-person search advisory search committee when selecting a president.

Morrell said during public comment the senate's resolutions address other ways stakeholders could be represented in a presidential search that are absent in the bylaws, like when electing an interim president.

"The senate believes that engaging [a presidential search committee] whenever possible will benefit the university, the members of the university community, this board, and the trust in this board and the person that board appoints," Morrell said.

Chen Chen, an at-large board member of UConn's AAUP chapter and assistant professor of sport management, also presented about the need for more transparency in the UConn president selection process during public comment.

Chen said in an email that an official response from UConn AAUP will come later this week after more information is gathered.

SENIOR CENTER, cont. from p. 1

Kueffner then explained why he chose option two's senior center proposal compared to the others. He wrote that rebuilding on the senior center's current site would disrupt its programs during construction and make it difficult for residents due to town facilities being spread out. He also wrote that the current site has limits compared to the community center's site.

> "My motive is simply to find a way for the town to end up with a senior center that is as affordable as possible, as versatile as possible, as appealing as possible and that offers Mansfield residents opportunities and benefits they would not otherwise be able to enjoy."
>
> **CHRIS KUEFFNER**
> REPUBLICAN COUNCIL MEMBER

Kueffner ended the email by explaining why he chose that motion.

"My motive is simply to find a way for the town to end up with a senior center that is as affordable as possible, as versatile as possible, as appealing as possible and that offers Mansfield residents opportunities and benefits they would not otherwise be able to enjoy," he wrote.

Kueffner did not wish to further comment on this matter.

Coleman said he will continue to advocate against the council's motion with option two. He said he hopes the building committee goes to a referendum to vote, where he will inform residents about it.

"I'll make citizens aware of what they're voting for, and hopefully citizens get what they originally wanted," Coleman said.

Americans will pay more for Thanksgiving dinners this year, Farm Bureau says

AP — Record turkey prices and higher fuel costs could make Thanksgiving dinner more expensive this year, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The American Farm Bureau Federation said the cost of an average Thanksgiving feast for 10 will rise 6% from last year to $58.63. The group tracks grocery prices using hundreds of volunteers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The Farm Bureau, which has been tracking Thanksgiving costs for 40 years, said it's the first time since 2022 that Americans will see the price of the meal increase. The price hit a record of $64.05 in 2022.

High diesel prices have made it more expensive for farmers to process and transport Thanksgiving staples like milk, dinner rolls, potatoes and cranberries, the Farm Bureau said. Diesel prices have surged since the start of the Iran war and hit a record average of $6.53 per gallon in the U.S. in September, according to AAA.

On Wednesday diesel averaged $5.96 per gallon, up 58% from a year ago, AAA said.

Turkey prices have also risen sharply over the past year. The Farm Bureau said the 16-pound turkey in its survey cost an average of $23.68 this year, up from $21.50 last year.

Bird flu has been decimating U.S. turkey flocks since an outbreak began in 2022. But cases have been waning, and turkey production increased substantially this year, said Mark Jordan, the executive director of Leap Market Analytics.

At the same time, turkey demand has been rising, as more Americans seek out lean protein and U.S. turkey exports rise. That strong demand has limited U.S. turkey inventories and raised prices. The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects the wholesale price of a whole frozen turkey hen will average a record $1.76 per pound this year, up 29% from last year.

"Over the last few years there's been a lot of doom and gloom for the turkey industry," Jordan said. "This is one of those years that turkey producers are feeling a little bit better about their lot in life."

Jordan said diesel costs likely didn't impact turkey prices this year, since so much of the decision-making and timing related to the turkeys that will be consumed this Thanksgiving happened before diesel prices spiraled. But diesel costs could have a notable impact on turkey prices next year, he said.

A few of the items on the Thanksgiving menu are cheaper than last year, the Farm Bureau said. A 1-pound vegetable tray featuring carrots and celery is 5 cents cheaper, while a 16-ounce bag of frozen peas is 4 cents cheaper. Frozen pie crusts are also slightly cheaper, although a can of pumpkin pie filling is more expensive.

And in some cases, stores will price turkey and other Thanksgiving staples lower in order to draw shoppers. Aldi said its feast for 10, which mirrors the Farm Bureau's menu, costs $39 this year. Walmart, which adds items like corn muffin mix and marshmallows but doesn't include carrots and celery, said its feast for 10 is $35.

Persistently high grocery prices have been frustrating Americans since the pandemic and played a role in Republicans' recent losses in the midterm elections. Prices for food eaten at home jumped 22% between October 2021 and October 2026, according to U.S. government data. That's almost double the usual pace of food price inflation.

This year, the USDA predicts prices for food eaten at home to rise 2.3%. That would be lower than the recent annual average of 2.6%.



Kristal Porter, right, helps her mother, high school cafeteria worker Shirley Mease, load turkeys into the oven in the kitchen at Reeds Spring High School as they prepare 700 free Thanksgiving meals for community members Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, in Reeds Spring, Mo. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS



Cans of cranberry sauce line a turkey display case at Bongi's Turkey Roost in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 22, 2022, in Duxbury, Mass.
PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS



Frozen turkeys are on display at a Meijer store Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, in Canton Township, Mich.
PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS

The Daily Campus

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