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CONTRACTS from cover

The petition has 969 signatures, at the time of publication.

The petition called on both Chartwells and Quinnipiac to "bargain in good faith," however, contract negotiations are between Chartwells and its employees.

John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, said that the university does not comment on negotiations between Chartwells and their unionized employees.

"This is not geared towards the university at all," Carter said. "I feel like our fight is with Chartwells."

Chartwells did not respond to The Chronicle's attempts for comment.

Carter also says that their goal in this push is not for a strike; the sole objective is to reach a fair agreement.

"Personally, it has taken a toll on me because I've kind of taken the bull by the horns to just try to get everybody a fair contract," Carter said. "And at this point, I feel like I'm not even more so upset with Chartwells, but more so with ourselves for letting it get this far."

And while negotiations are solely between Chartwells and the employees, senior nursing major Aiden Hughes says the school should still be an advocate.

"If Quinnipiac is not advocating for their workers to the max extent, I think that needs to change," Hughes said.

Through his time so far at Quinnipiac, Hughes has built connections with several of the dining workers.

"Before I started living off campus, I became very close with a lot of the dining workers and got to learn about a lot of their stories and just had conversations with them every single day," Hughes said. "And through talking to a couple of them, I came to find out that they really were not getting paid comparatively to other universities."

Hughes knows that wage disparities have taken a toll on the dining workers, yet he's noticed they still stay positive.

"I may be having a stressful day, and I've noticed that they all tend to put their life stress aside," Hughes said. "And are always smiling, are always there to have everybody's backs, are always there to try and go the extra mile to try and make the experience as great as they possibly can."

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>
> **– Aiden Hughes**
> **SENIOR NURSING MAJOR**

Hughes also emphasized the confusion in wage disparities between employees at Quinnipiac as compared to other schools. The outcome of a fair contract, Hughes notes, would be a benefit for the Quinnipiac community beyond the dining staff.

"You see workers who are creating a great environment now with all of this stress and with the lack of fair compensation; think about what kind of environment Quinnipiac would be creating if there was a negotiated fair wage," Hughes said. "...It also benefits students who are already paying the school an arm and a leg to attend here. Now you're creating an even better dining environment. And I think that's only fair."

Hughes and Carter can both agree that reaching a fair contract can only result in positive change for the university as a whole. For Carter, dealing with mistreatment "whether it's intentionally, unintentionally, by management," builds up to have an effect on daily operations.

"I try to stay positive and upbeat as much as you can, but it gets to a point to where it's like, all right this is enough," Carter said.

Balancing a work and home life, Carter continues to fulfill his union duties as well, pushing for change for him and his colleagues.

"I don't want to spend another 20 years, another 15 years, and I'm kind of still in the same situation," Carter said.

Irma-Dana pedestrian bridge project moves forward sooner than anticipated

By ADRIANA CERBONE and LEXI VARNECKAS

Construction on the Irma-Dana pedestrian bridge was previously scheduled to be done in October 2027, due to acquiring the necessary permits to operate on it. This resulted in students being inconvenienced and frustrated. Now, it will reopen mid-November 2026.

"We are pleased to report the bridge project has moved forward sooner than previously anticipated," John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. "The university successfully completed the Inland Wetlands permitting process and has now applied for the required building permit. We anticipate beginning work on the replacement bridge in early September, with a target completion date of early to mid-November 2026."

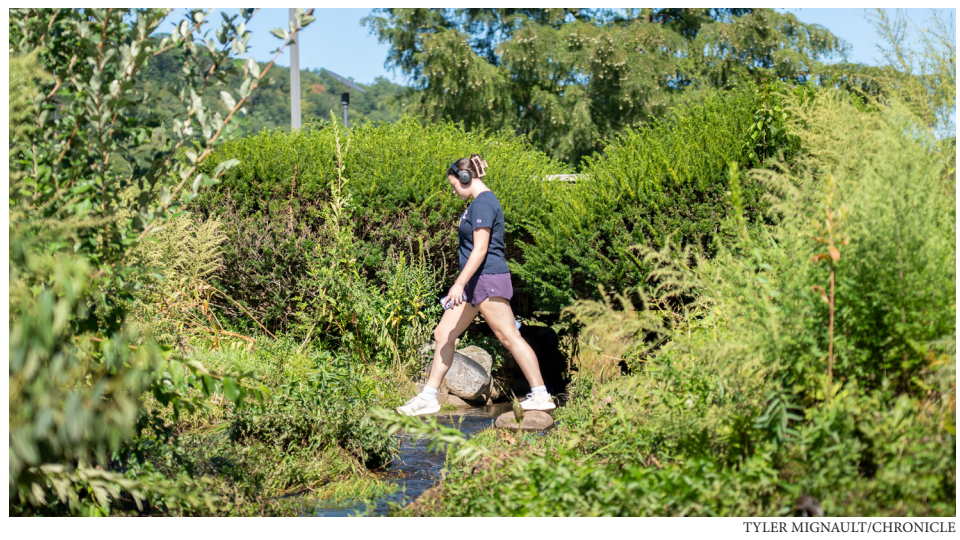
The bridge has been closed for about a year due to an observed shift.

The Irma-Dana bridge sits between Mount Carmel Campus housing on Bobcat Way and the Recreation and Wellness Center. The closure of this pathway caused difficulty in students' daily lives, making going to classes, the gym and attending any on-campus activities a struggle.

The construction requires many permits, including Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, Mashantucket, Mohegan, Wampanoag and Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Bat Presence Survey for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Officers, CTDEEP Fisheries Division, Hamden Inland Wetlands and Hamden Planning and Zoning.

Sophomore political science major Madison Galvin expressed how the bridge's closure has affected Quinnipiac students.

"As the bridge has not directly affected me, it has affected those close to me who lived in the Irma residence hall," Galvin said. "Multiple times a week I would see them making the ultimate trek through the water, only to end the journey with wet, soggy socks and a negative attitude, which is completely fair due to the fact that the bridge was closed not for a week, not a month, but almost two semesters."



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Students use rocks next to the Irma-Dana pedestrian bridge as a pathway after the bridge's closure causes inconvenience on the Mount Carmel Campus.

Unfortunately for students, the bridge was a major pathway.

"Other than the bridge, there really is no other practical path to get to and from the RecWell," she said.

Galvin explains how it's time for a new bridge. "This bridge has been bro ken many times, it only seems fitting for a new and improved design," she said. "Or maybe something with construction that doesn't take all year to fix."

Sophomore sports management major Mac Steininger says he can't wait for the reopening of the bridge.

"I feel very excited, it has been closed for a while and will be nice to use again," Steininger said. "I have been taking the rock bridge. While convenient, it is inconsistent due to water level and the terrain."

Steininger was surprised after hearing the news about the bridge reopening sooner than expected.

"I was so shocked when I found out the bridge was going to be fixed almost a year sooner, and I think every student is ready to never walk in the water again," he said.

Junior sports management major Nicola Soliday expresses both confusion and excitement for the bridge construction to begin.

"I can't stand having to jump across a river," she said. "Couldn't they just go to Home Depot and get a board to lay across?"

Many students did not understand what took the university so long to begin construction.

"We were left in the dark and the communication just stopped and went dry," Soliday said. "The university didn't explain the process of needing permits, which was frustrating."

With students looking forward to never taking the rock path again, it will be a welcome change for the Quinnipiac community.