**Legislative Conference Committee Items**

**UMass Boston Centers and Institutes**

Section 2, in item 7100-0200: "provided further, that funding for each center and institute at UMass Boston shall be provided at an amount not less than in fiscal year 2018; provided further, that if as a result of extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, the university deems it necessary to reduce funding to any of said institutions, the university shall issue a report detailing: (a) the reasons for said reductions; (b) all steps taken to avoid such reductions, including, but not limited to, the identification of other sources of existing funds, raising of new revenues and the pursuit of savings initiatives and efficiencies; and (c) a mitigation plan to ameliorate the effects on students and university staff of such reductions, of which input from such parties shall be solicited; and provided further, that said report shall be provided to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on higher education and the chairs of the house and senate ways and means committees not later than 120 days prior to any such funding reduction or institutional closure."

**Special Commission on UMass Boston Debt**

SECTION XX.  There shall be a special joint legislative commission to review and evaluate all aspects of the original infrastructure debt associated with all repair and maintenance and capital construction-improvement projects completed at UMass Boston. Consistent with the requirement that public expenditures must be open to review, the commission will have access to all records, data, studies and reports, etc. prepared by or for UMass Boston, The University of Massachusetts President’s Office, UMass Building Authority, UMass Board of Trustees, etc. and available from various state agencies, vendors-contractors, consultants, etc. The commission will have unfettered and complete access to any and all such data and related public documents.

The commission shall review and evaluate the collected data and will assess the impact of the original infrastructure debt on the day-to-day operations of the UMass Boston campus. It shall identify those expenses incurred to-date and pending future expenses to be incurred to correct all deficient construction related activities caused by the initial construction of the campus. Upon completion of its review and evaluation, the commission will issue a report of its findings and recommendations. Specifically, the commission will identify that amount of debt incurred to-date or pending related to the initial deficient construction of the campus and that should either be reimbursed, paid off, and/or assumed by the commonwealth instead of UMass Boston.

The commission shall consist of:  1 person to be appointed by the senate president who shall serve as co-chair; 1 person to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives who shall serve as co-chair; the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and Treasurer, UMass President’s Office or a designee: the Chair of the Committee on Administration and Finance, UMass Board of Trustees or a designee; the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, UMass Boston or a designee; the President of UMass Boston Student Government or a designee;  and 7 persons to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be independent and qualified third party specialists-consultants in debt financing and debt management for public higher educational institutions, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Boston Board of Visitors, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Boston Alumni Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Boston Faculty Senate,1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Labor Employee Union, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the UMass Building Authority.

Meetings of the commission shall be subject to all applicable provisions of MGL, Chapter 30A.  The commission will meet on a regular basis and will file a report of its findings and recommendations with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means, and the governor by March 31, 2019.