DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

6.033—Computer System Engineering Handout 34—May 17, 1995

FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY

Since 6.033 has a number of unusual features, we traditionally ask for some additional feedback, beyond that acquired for the course 6 *Underground Guide*. Here is your opportunity to influence how the subject is taught to future generations. Don't be bashful; we listen to every comment, and over the years, many changes in 6.033 have come directly from suggestions made here.

Circle your recitation instructor: Corbató Tennenhouse Kaashoek Waldspurger

and your teaching assistant: DeHon McDonald Manning Joseph

The following, rather wordy, "questions" are intended to trigger thoughts rather than to elicit specific answers.

The readings:

The level and quantity of the readings is a subject of continual debate. How many hours per week did you actually put in on the readings? _____ How many hours additional, if any, would have been needed to do them justice? _____ Should we back down on the quantity by about the ratio of those two numbers? _____ If not, how much, or is the quantity about right or too low? On average, are these papers too hairy to give to undergraduates? Were the one-page writing assignments helpful?

If you particularly recall one or two papers that we should definitely delete from the reading list, which were they, and why?

If you particularly recall one or two papers that future students should not miss, which were they, and why?

Next year 6.033 will have an additional 6-unit *elective* lab, in which one can obtain some hands-on experience with system hacking. Would you be interested in such a lab? Would you enroll for it?

The texts:

Was the book by Tanenbaum helpful? Should we require it in the future, or just suggest it for people not having enough background, or use it more, or what? The book by Brooks is unreasonably expensive. Is it worth it?

The lectures and recitations:

Is the overall pace reasonable? Are we being too superficial, or are we going too deeply into some topics? What percentage of the lectures did you attend? _____ recitations? _____ Suggestions for change?

The quizzes:

Were three quizzes (circle one) too many? OK? Too few? Was coverage appropriate? Impossible to study for? Questions unfair or not on the material covered? Too long or too trivial? Were the sample questions and answers helpful or confusing? We didn't give two quizzes plus a final because faculty regulations would require us to make the second case study due at least one week earlier. Do we have that decision right, or should we do it the other way?

The case studies:

One was solo, one was a team effort. Were they useful? Too hard? Too vague? How could we improve them?

The Teaching Staff:

How effective were they? Did they meet your expectations? Use a scale of {10 = great, …, 1 = awful}.

regular lecturer _____

guest lecturers _____

recitation _____

teaching assistant _____

The writing program:

Two special lectures; review of an early one-page essay; review of a case study for Phase II checkoff; optional Writing Practicum. Are the interactions between 6.033 and the writing program helpful or distracting? Do you have any suggestions for change?

The bottom line:

Did you learn anything in 6.033? {10 = a whole lot, …, 1 = very little} _____

Other comments:

If you would like more time to think about it, feel free to take this handout home and mail it to Prof. Kaashoek, M.I.T. room NE43-522.