DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

6.033—Computer System Engineering — Handout 31—May 13, 1998

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:

Chapin	Gifford	Karger	Rinard	Rivest	Saltzer	Ward

and your teaching assistant:

Almeida	Candea	Fu	Kwon	Mazieres	Sapuntzakis	Rusnak

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?

The texts:

If you looked at Tanenbaum, was the book by Tanenbaum helpful? The book by Brooks is unreasonably expensive. Is it worth it?

Lecture notes

Did you find the on-line lecture notes helpful? Each year the lecture notes get a little more extensive. Are we at the stage where we should dump Tanenbaum's book completely?

Did you find the draft chapters by Saltzer and Kaashoek helpful? Did you read them?

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?

The design projects:

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

Did you find the design review process of project II useful? Did you find the in-class presentations useful? How would you change it?

The Teaching Staff:

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

regular lecturer (kaashoek)_____

guest lecturers (Rivest, Saltzer, Chapin, and Dertouzos)_____

recitation _____

teaching assistant _____

The 6.033 lab:

This year 6.033 offered for the third time an elective lab. Would you have liked to take it?

If you have taken the lab this year, how many hours per week did you spend on the lab? _________ How many hours additional, if any, would have been needed to do the assignment appropriately?_________ Where the assignments too hard? Too easy? How would you improve them?

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

The writing program:

Two special lectures; review of an early one-page essay; review of a design project 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 have a chance to work on it, bring the completed feedback form to recitation on Thursday, when you pick up your quiz III and design project #2. To protect against potential conflicts, we will not read your feedback until after the final grade meeting. 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 (or email your comments to kaashoek@mit.edu).