I am honored to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts as the incoming Faculty senate president. My name is Antonis Katsiyannis and I received my doctorate from the College of William & Mary in special education in 1989. After completing my doctorate in 1989, I was employed by the Virginia Department of Education in the Federal Monitoring Unit and taught at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Currently, I am an Alumni Distinguished Professor of Special Education and teach courses in assessment, applied behavior analysis, and legal and policy issues. I have published over 150 articles in the areas of legal and policy issues associated with special education, and delinquency. I also serve as the co editor of the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*.

The future is now! As Clemson’s reputation is becoming more visible nationally, Clemson is well positioned to attract the best and brightest of students and faculty. Retaining these students and faculty, however, is challenging given the state of our academic and support facilities.

1. Facilities

   First, regarding student support facilities

   **Health and wellness Center** (FIKE is beyond capacity)

   **Red Fern** is outdated, beyond capacity, and understaffed

   **Harcombe Union**

   **Dorms**-Johnstone, Mauldin…

   Second, regarding faculty support facilities

   **Academic Buildings Renovation**- Long Hall, PNA, Newman, Sirrine…

   **Deferred maintenance**- estimated to be over 200 million dollars present a serious threat to the continuous operation of the university.

   **Early childhood center**- persistent and unfortunately unmet need.

   Given the low construction cost, historically low interest rates, and Clemson’s excellent credit, it is critical that we embark in the process to transform the main campus with state of the art facilities NOW! Let’s us ALL be proud of our academic facilities the same way we are about athletic facilities.

2. Upper Administration vacancies and interim positions.

   All of us in the Clemson family must do our due diligence to ensure capable leadership in charting an even brighter future for Clemson. It is necessary to fill vacant and interim positions with visionary/outstanding leaders in a timely fashion.

3. Recognizing Exemplary Achievement Among Faculty
It is necessary to explore additional means of recognizing outstanding and sustained contributions by our faculty. **University professors**, a meritorious designation for outstanding performance may be a means to reward faculty **for excellence in teaching, research, and service**.

4. **Operational efficiency**

It is necessary that operational processes be critically examined. Unnecessary, multiple steps are time consuming and interfere with the ability of faculty to concentrate in teaching and research.

**Many thanks to all of you for your dedicated service to Clemson! On behalf of my colleagues, I am looking forward to working with you in the upcoming year.**