



**Minutes of the General Assembly
Belief Functions and Applications Society (BFAS)**

*La Certosa di Pontignano (Siena), Italy
30 October 2019*

Assembly: 26 participants including the following board members:

1. Thierry Denœux (President)
2. Frédéric Pichon (Treasurer)
3. Anne-Laure Joussetme (Secretary)
4. David Mercier (Webmaster)
5. Prakash Shenoy
6. Arnaud Martin

Wednesday, 16h00—16:30

Thierry Denœux (BFAS President) opened the meeting and first reviewed the agenda with four items: Missions of the society, Board renewal, Approval of financial statement, Next event: Belief Conference 2020.

Thierry Denœux recalled the mission of the BFAS, which is to *promote belief functions theory and tools through different means* (conferences, schools, special sessions, special issues, LinkedIn group, supporting actions like student grants, etc). Any registrant to a BFAS event (either the conference or the school) is automatically a member of the BFAS for 4 years.

The current composition of the BFAS board of directors renewed in November 2017 has been presented to the Assembly:

- **Thierry Denœux (President)**
- **Anne-Laure Joussetme (Secretary)**
- **Frédéric Pichon (Treasurer)**
- Fabio Cuzzolin (Communication)
- Zied Elouedi (Communication)

- Zhunga Liu (Webmaster)
- David Mercier (Webmaster)
- Arnaud Martin
- Johan Schubert (LinkedIn group)
- Prakash Shenoy

Half of the board is renewed every two years. Five current board members have reached the end of their term and have to be renewed: T. Denœux, A.-L. Jousseme, A. Martin, D. Mercier, P. Shenoy. Elections will be organised by the end of 2019 to renew the board.

Frédéric Pichon (treasurer) presented some news about the bank account: The account has changed from “Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne” to “La Banque Postale”, together with change of head office address, contact information and management address to the Treasurer’s professional address and information:

Faculté des Sciences Appliquées, Technoparc Futura, 62400 Béthune, France
 E-mail : frederic.pichon@univ-artois.fr
 Phone : +33 3 21 637189

An electronic account book has been created (first record date = December 2017 = election of the new Treasurer) and shared with the President.

Frédéric Pichon presented the 2018 budget, which exhibits a positive balance of **19511.1** euros. The balance for 2019 is expected to be down to 16021 euros due mainly to expenses (student grants) related to the school

The BFAS financial report for the year 2018 has been formally approved by the Assembly, by silent voting. No vote against.

T. Denœux presented the possible actions of 2018, most of them have been completed:

- Support to students for conferences and schools
 - DONE: 7 grants have been awarded for the School in 2019
- Joint action with other societies
 - DONE: Joint organization of BELIEF and Granular Computing and Three-Way Decisions in 2020 (see below)
- Develop communication
 - DONE: new website is online <https://bfasociety.org> and a new mailing list is functional
- Fund visiting projects by society members, in line with the aim of the society (promoting and developing belief functions)
 - TO BE DONE: Suggestion to make a formal call for grants to PhD students for visiting labs
- Open a savings account
 - TO BE DONE
- Define important problems deserving a prize if resolved

- TO BE DONE

Followed then an open discussion between board members and the Assembly:

- Several means on how to use the positive balance of BFAS have been discussed: Prizes to be awarded to the best PhD thesis on Belief Functions, or/and best paper (Prakash Shenoy's suggestion).
- Discussion about how to render basic material on belief functions more accessible:
 - Build a tutorial, with basic material, including worked-out examples, textbook, accessible online (M. De Shon)
 - Provide room for a forum for discussion (S. Biswas): The LinkedIn group exists already which could serve this purpose, but additional means may be developed such as a website with open questions
 - Recorded talks from selected lecturers
 - Short videos: Anybody can provide short videos describing a specific aspect (for instance Dempster's rule), which could be made available through the website after some validation by the BFAS
 - BFAS Youtube channel (?)
- Advantages of BFAS members have been discussed: So far, everyone has access to all material (e.g., slides from past schools), but we could aim at a better balance between privileging members and disseminating the material at large. Maybe short and long versions?

Finally, T. Denœux presented the location of the next BELIEF conference, which will be Shanghai, China, from 23-25 October 2020. The event will be collocated with the *Granular Computing and Three-Way Decisions* (popular topic in Rough sets community), and co-sponsored by the Int. Rough Set Society. The committee will be announced soon.

The meeting closed at 16h30.