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

Online ZOOM meeting
18 December 2023
11:00 – 12:00 CET (UTC +1)

Assembly: 10 participants (on-line) including the following board members:

1. Thierry Denoeux (President)
2. Frédéric Pichon (Treasurer)
3. Anne-Laure Jousselme (Secretary)
4. David Mercier (Webmaster)
5. Zhunga Liu (Webmaster)

Regrets

6. Prakash Shenoy

Monday, December 18th, 11h00—12:00 (UTC + 1)

Thierry Denoeux (BFAS President) opened the 2023 BFAS General Assembly, first version fully online. He presented the agenda with the following items: *Missions of the society*, *Partial board renewal, Approval of financial statements, Report on the BFTA 2023 school, Update on action items*.

T. Denoeux recalled the mission of the BFAS and said a few words on the Society inception as a tribute to Arnaud Martin, the founder and first BFAS president who passed away last August at the age of 49. That was also the opportunity to list the 13 events which have occurred so far (7 conferences and 6 schools).

The elections of the BFAS Board of Directors (BoD) took place 1-10 December, to renew half of the BoD. The results communicated on 11 December 2023 are:

- Thierry Denoeux – re-elected
- Anne-Laure Jousselme – re-elected
- David Mercier – re-relected
- Prakash Shenoy – re-elected
- Zhi-gang Su – new elected member

Besides:

- Sébastien Destercke - did not run again
- Johan Schubert – stepped down with two more years to serve; the BoD will thus run with 9 members instead of 10 and will turn back to 10 in 2025 with the election of 5 members.

The 2023 composition of the BFAS BoD is thus (in alphabetic order, new or re-elected members in italic):

1. ***Thierry Denoeux***
2. **Zied Elouedi (Communication)**
3. ***Anne-Laure Jousselme***
4. **Sylvie Le Hégarat-Mascle**
5. **Zhunga Liu (Webmaster)**
6. ***David Mercier (Webmaster)***
7. **Frédéric Pichon**
8. ***Prakash Shenoy***
9. ***Zhi-gang Su***

Positions for President, Secretary and Treasurer have been submitted to the vote of the BoD members. T. Denoeux, A.-L. Jousselme and F. Pichon respectively applied for these positions. Results will be announced on December 22nd. The next elections will be in 2025.

Frédéric Pichon (BFAS treasurer) presented the 2022 financial statements, together with the 2023 budget. The positive balance of **17300.84€** (including **10247.65€** in the savings account) for 2022 was partially used in 2023 for the BFTA school fees (student grants, lecturers travel fees), ending with positive balance in 2023 of **14595.70€**.

A vote was organized among Assembly attendees. To the question *Do you **approve** the 2023 financial statements?* The on-line attendees answered formally "I approve" by raising hands in Zoom. All 10 attendees approved the budget.

The BFAS financial statements for year 2023 have been formally approved by the Assembly.

On behalf of the BFTA school 2023 organizing committee, A.-L. Jousselme presented a brief report on the school which was held at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) (25 Oct.-1 Nov. 2023. The event was organized by Prof. Van-Nam Huynh (JAIST), T. Denoeux (UTC), F. Pichon (U. Artois), D. Mercier (U. Artois), A.-L. Jousselme (CS Group) and JAIST students for local organization. 45 participants attended the event including 11 online. 12 lectures were provided by 8 lecturers over 4 days. BFAS sponsored the event with 5 student grants (4 used, 1 declined), support to lecturers' travels. The ISIF

(International Society of Information Fusion) sponsored lecturers' travels and JAIST sponsored catering and lecturers' accommodation.

At the end of the session, T. Denoeux provided an update on action items:

- **Support to students for conferences and schools**
  - 5 grants have been awarded for the school in 2023.
- **Joint action with other societies**
  - BELIEF 2024 conference will be collocated with the 23rd UK Workshop on Computational Intelligence (UKCI 2024), in Belfast.
- **Develop communication**
  - Two mailing lists: members@bfas.org for active members and mailinglist@bfas.org for reaching out the broader community of interest
- **Fund visiting projects by society members**
  - Still active proposal, no candidate yet
- **YouTube BFAS channel**
  - In process
  - The channel will be with limited access for posting videos
  - First post would be lectures from the last school (BFTA 2023) that have all been recorded, if authors agree
- **Define important problems deserving a prize if resolved**
  - Pending
- **Best PhD or Master thesis (new topic)**
  - To be done

Next year, the BELIEF conference will be held in Belfast, at Ulster University facilities, September 4-6, 2024. All are encouraged to submit their contributions by April 15, 2024.

The meeting closed at 12h00 (UTC+1)

La Garde, France, 18 December 2023

Thierry Denoeux, President

Anne-Laure Jousselme, Secretary