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

Granada University
Granada, Spain

20 October 2025

Assembly: 31 participants (all on-site)

including the following board members:

1. Thierry Denoeux (President)
2. Frédéric Pichon (Treasurer)
3. Anne-Laure Jousselme (Secretary)
4. Prakash Shenoy (LinkedIn group)
5. David Mercier (Webmaster)

Regrets

6. *Zied Elouedi (Communication)*
7. *Zhunga Liu (Webmaster)*
8. *Sylvie Le Hégarat*
9. *Zhi-gang Su*

Monday, October 20, 17h20—17:50 (UTC + 1)

Thierry Denoeux (BFAS President) opened the 2025 BFAS General Assembly, with an agenda of items, that are classically discussed at BFAS General Assembly: *Missions of the society*, *Partial board renewal, Approval of financial statements, Report of the BELIEF 2024 conference, Update on action items*.

T. Denoeux 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). He also recalled some history of the BFAS events with attendance numbers.

T. Denoeux then presented to the Assembly the current composition of the BFAS Board of Directors (BoD) with its 9 current members. The 2025 composition of the BFAS BoD is:

- Thierry Denoeux (President)
- Frédéric Pichon (Treasurer)
- Anne-Laure Jousselme (Secretary)
- Zied Elouedi (Communication)
- Zhunga Liu (Webmaster)
- David Mercier (Webmaster)

- Prakash Shenoy (LinkedIn group)
- Sylvie Le Hégarat-Mascle
- Zhi-gang Su

Next elections will be in December 2025, with partial renewal of the Board.

Frédéric Pichon (BFAS treasurer) presented the 2024 financial statements, together with forecast for 2025, after the school budget has been closed. The net balance at the end of 2024 was **13478,37€ (of which 10862,94€ on the savings account)**. The expected balance for 2025 is **14568,37€** assuming a revenue of 1000€ from the BFTA school 2025 (to be confirmed after the event).

A vote was organized among assembly attendees through the following question:

> *Do you **disapprove** the 2024 financial statements?* **0 vote**

The BFAS financial statements for year 2024 have been formally approved by the BFAS Assembly, with 31 approvals.

T. Denoeux pursued by providing a brief report about the BELIEF 2024, held in Belfast in September 2024:

- 32 attendees
- 4 keynotes, 7 technical sessions
- Colocated with the 23rd UK Workshop on Computational Intelligence (UKCI 2024)
- Report published in ISIF Perspectives magazine
- IJAR best paper award

The location of the next BELIEF conference has not been decided yet and will be under discussion during the following weeks.

T. Denoeux reviewed the list of action items collected at the last General Assembly in 2024 in Belfast, and an open discussion opened:

- **Support to students for conferences and schools**
  - [Done] 5 grants have been awarded for the school in 2025, thanks to a sponsorship of the Artificial Intelligence journal; 5 for BELIEF 2018; 7for the BFTA school 2019; 4 for BELIEF 2021; 7 for BELIEF 2022; 5 for the BFTA school 2023.
- **Joint action with other societies**
  - **2024**: BELIEF 2024 collocated with the 23rd UK Workshop on Computational Intelligence (UKCI 2024)
  - **2021**: Joint organization of BELIEF and Cognitive Analytics, Granular Computing, and Three-Way Decisions (CCGT) in 2021, but the CCGT was cancelled;
  - **2018**: Joint organization of BELIEF 2018 and SMPS in Compiegne (FRA);
  - **2017**: Collocation of the BFTA school in Xi'an with the FUSION conference the week after;
  - **2020/2021/2025**: Tutorial presentations at the FUSION conference (S. Le Hégarat (2020) and F. Pichon and A.-L. Jousselme (2020, 2021, 2025)).

- **Develop communication**
    - Thanks to David Mercier, the web site has been updated; two mailing lists have been created: members@bfas.org for active members and mailinglist@bfas.org reaching out to a broader community interested in belief functions;
    - The YouTube BFAS channel has been created and is active with 9 videos, corresponding to lectures of the 2023 BFTA school: https://www.youtube.com/@bfas_channel
    - WeChat BFAS group has been created [Thanks to Ling Huang], and the link and QR code are published on the BFAS website
    - [**ACTION 2024**] Make the LinkedIn link more visible, including the QR code on the BFAS website and advertise it through the mailing list]
    - **[ACTION 2024]** Tag recent interesting papers on belief functions, so they can be available through LinkedIn
- **Visiting grants:**
    - Sébastien Destercke suggests issuing a call for formally advertising funding visiting with deadline, to encourage people to apply, still being flexible with deadline. These grants could fund for instance, 1 week of visit (say 700 euros). Total budget could be up to 5 visits. **[ACTION 2025]** Issue the call for visiting grants

- **Best PhD or Master thesis on belief functions**

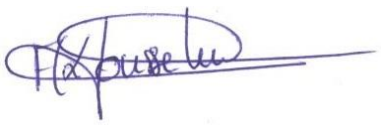
    - Same remark was made about the nomination of best thesis or paper. A call should be issued, a formal procedure should be defined (e.g., appoint a committee president, who is then selecting the committee, who will evaluate the theses and decide on the best one. Several years should be considered (2? 3? 4?) to have a reasonable number to assess. **[ACTION 2025]:** Formal call for nomination of best thesis, define the formal procedure, post on the website and send emails.
    - This procedure can be extended to distinguish most influencing papers.
- Enrique Miranda advertised the next IPMU conference which will be in Rome, in June 2026. Special sessions on Belief Functions would be welcome.

Thierry Denoeux then mentioned the BFAS best poster award to be announced on Wednesday 22 at 18h00. The committee will select the best posters during the two poster sessions on Monday and Wednesday. The prize will be free registration to BELIEF 2026, contingent to a paper presentation.

The meeting closed at 17h45 (UTC+1)

Granada, Spain, 20 October 2025





Thierry Denoeux, President

Anne-Laure Jousselme, Secretary