

BFAS 2014 general meeting minutes

26th september 2014

1. Sebastien Destercke (Secretary) confirms the current board as well as members to be re-elected next year (in bold):
 - **Thierry Denoeux** (President)
 - **Arnaud Martin** (Treasurer)
 - Sebastien Destercke (Secretary)
 - **David Mercier** (webmaster)
 - **Fabio Cuzzolin (communication)**
 - Boutheina Ben Yaghlane
 - Thanuka Wickramarathne
 - **Johan Schubert**
 - **Prakash Shenoy**
 - **Anne-Laure Jouselme**
2. Sebastien Destercke gives a status of the current number of members, 309 out of which 80 will end their membership this year.
3. Sebastien Destercke provides the details of the society budget, with a planned balance of +13700 at the end of the year. The attendees unanimously approve the budget. Discussion ensues about possibilities to use the association money. Various proposals are made:
 - Help to the next spring school
 - Grants to help students attendance → clear rules and calls for such grants should be made
 - Hire (1h or 2h/week) someone to ensure communication activities (collect mail of scientist involved in belief functions, promote the association, etc...)→ discussion arise about the potentially high cost of such an initiative
 - Think of other possible awards in addition to best paper ones, such as best thesis or best poster.
4. The discussion pursues about the means to promote belief functions and the association on different topics, among which:
 - **Communication:**
 - i. Build and consolidate a mailing list of members and of belief-function related scientists/industrials
 - ii. Improve and consolidate the linkedin group
 - iii. Publish a newsletter with the list of published papers in the conference proceedings
 - **Promotion of belief functions by:**
 - i. Linking with other related conferences, for instance UAI (in Amsterdam in 2015). Possibility to present best BELIEF papers to UAI?

- ii. Proposing workshop, special sessions and tutorials in other conferences, or special issues in journals (IEEE TFS is mentioned by Fabio Cuzzolin)
 - iii. Building some benchmark data sets or proposing clear challenges in terms of software/theory to increase visibility
 - **Conference organization**
 - i. A letter of invitation should be sent to authors of accepted papers early in advance so they can apply for (and get) their visa if required. This puts some constraints on the acceptance decision deadline. Also, the organizers should be aware that some papers might not be presented. What should be the procedure for non-author participants?
 - ii. The possibility of holding workshop(s) in parallel to the conference where people can meet to address a specific topic of interest. This would allow the participants to make the trip more profitable (and justifiable in some cases) in a period of budget restriction;
5. Sébastien Destercke mentions candidacies for the next Spring School and BELIEF conference. A first candidacy for the school is presented by Bethune and Lille universities (France).

With no more questions and comments from the attendees, the meeting is adjourned at 18h of September 26, 2014.

Sébastien Destercke, Secretary