



BUTEX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Thursday 28th November 2024

Online via Zoom

Minutes

Present: This was a virtual meeting at the Butex Winter Workshop 2024. There were no formal agenda items requiring a vote, so no formal roll or quorum was required.

Agenda

- ❖ Butex Annual Report
 - ❖ Treasurer's Report
 - ❖ Membership Fees Update
 - ❖ Butex Scholarship Update
 - ❖ NAFSA 2025 Update
 - ❖ Butex Annual Conference 2025 Update
 - ❖ Butex Rebrand Update
 - ❖ Confirmation of 2025 Executive Committee
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1. **BUTEX Annual Report**

Rohan McCarthy-Gill, the Chair, began by thanking everyone for coming and he introduced Nanna Pedley, Isobel Mosley and Oliver Bakewell who also presented at the AGM. Rohan shared that the Annual report has been circulated to all members via the mailing list and is also available on the Butex website. The annual report details all Butex's activities throughout the year in detail and Rohan encouraged members to read it in their own time.

2. **Treasurer's Report (including Membership Fees and Scholarships Update)**

Isobel Mosley, the Butex Treasurer, presented an update on the financial year income and expenditure to date. Isobel confirmed that in 2024 Butex had a total of 102 members: 80 full members and 22 associate members. Our membership numbers continue to grow each year and it's been wonderful to especially see a big increase in the number of associate members.

The membership fees for Butex will be increasing very slightly in 2025, as noted in the table below.

Membership	2024	2025
Full and Gold Associate	£526	£535
Silver Associate	£263	£267.50
Inbound (existing only)	£94	£95

In 2024, membership fees were increased after having had no membership fee increases for 27 years. Butex needed to respond to the high inflationary environment by increasing the 2023

membership fees by 10%. Due to this previous increase, and the drop in the current rate of inflation, the fee increase for 2025 was able to be kept to a minimum.

An important item to note was that the decision has been taken to remove the Inbound Membership only option due to a very low intake. Any members who currently have this membership will be able to continue with it, but no new members will have this option available to them.

With regards to Butex Scholarships, Isobel shared that a total of £8,500 was invested in 2023 and 2024 to fund 17 scholarships and all 17 were awarded in this financial year. Due to increased travel costs, the Butex Scholarship amount will increase from £500 to £600 in 2025. The increase in membership fees will contribute towards the increase in award amounts.

Our income is lower than our expenditure for the first time this financial year, and this is due to investing in our rebrand and new website which will enhance the user experience and also help attract new members to our community.

3. NAFSA 2025 Update

The preparations for NAFSA 2025 are already underway and we are looking forward to the event that will take place in San Diego. The last time NAFSA was held in the city was in 2014 so it will be good to return there once more.

Butex and the British Council will be collaborating once again on a shared booth after the success of NAFSA 2024. We are pleased to share that the booth has been confirmed and in 2025 we will have an island/standalone booth providing an increase in space and visibility enhancing our presence at the event. Rohan also reiterated that after the issues at NAFSA in 2024, resulting in a missing hanging banner due to miscommunication on the event organisers side, we will ensure the signage this year will be provided.

We are thrilled to announce that the Visit Scotland booth will be next to the Butex/British Council booth at NAFSA 2025. Being in the same area will help consolidate the UK presence which we are working hard to achieve.

We are pleased to announce that the Butex Reception will be held on Tuesday 27 May 2025. After an extensive search due to encountering much higher costs than previous years, a unique venue has been sourced to host this event. The venue, Deck655, is located in downtown San Diego near the Marina district. It features a games room, amphitheatre and has a beautiful promenade deck with views of the surrounding area. We believe it will be a wonderful venue to host yet another popular Butex reception for 300+ people from around the world. We will be approaching Duolingo English Test once again and hope they will return as a major sponsor of the event. Rohan and Isobel will be finalising the pricing for member sponsorship opportunities for this event and the details will be shared shortly. We look forward to having many of our members support the event to make this another wonderful and unforgettable reception.

We will also be hosting informal Butex welcome drinks on Monday 26 May before NAFSA gets under way. The location and details will be shared next year.

4. BUTEX Annual Conference 2025 Update

Ollie is the current Butex Annual Conference Officer, and he provided an update on the Annual Conference that will take place at the University of Hull in 2025 from 2 to 4 April 2025.

Ollie shared that he and Kathryn O'Connor, the Butex Manager, have been working closely together to put all the details of the conference together. The University of Hull are thrilled to be hosting the Butex conference. The conference will once again take place over three days and will consist of a number of sessions presented by Butex members and external speakers, as well as evening networking sessions hosted in special venues in the city. Ollie reiterated that costs were being considered in all the decisions taken to ensure an affordable ticket for Butex members to attend the event.

Ollie confirmed that details regarding ticket prices and submissions for sessions will be shared in the New Year.

5. Butex Rebrand Update

Nanna Pedley shared that this year the much-anticipated Butex Rebrand finally took place in 2024 and it was the first logo change that has happened in the history of Butex's 30+ years! After receiving tenders from a few companies, the creative agency TR Creative was chosen to redesign the Butex logo. After a few months of meetings and discussions with the agency the new logo was created and they did an amazing job. The logo was unveiled at the Butex Annual Conference and NAFSA and received wonderful feedback from our members and the decision was made to continue to work with TR Creative to design the new Butex website as well.

The new website has now been designed and sent to our web developers to build. We have worked hard on the new website layout to ensure a more functional and easier to use site that will better serve our members. We are so looking forward to launching the new website in the New Year!

6. Confirmation of 2024 Committee

We are pleased to announce that as we enter 2025, the BUTEX Committee consists of 15 individuals and is the biggest committee Butex has had in a while, possibly ever! It has been fantastic to see the committee grow this year, with an increase in the number of Co-opted members. This was due to an increase in the interest in being part of the committee and the number of applications received for committee positions.

In 2025 the following positions will be available for election:

- Marketing and Communications Officer (February 2025)
- Representative of Associate Members (May 2025)
- Vice Chair (July 2025)
- Chair (October 2025)

If you have any questions about the positions above, please contact Kathryn O'Connor or those currently in the positions.

The AGM ended with Rohan thanking the committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and contribution. All committee members volunteer their time to be on the committee and this is appreciated as without them, everything Butex has achieved wouldn't be possible. Rohan also thanked the Butex members for their trust and support, as without them Butex wouldn't exist! The Butex members keep Butex going by supporting all the events and being great corporate citizens in the social mobility world. The growing membership numbers in 2024 prove that Butex is a vital organisation for the sector and the committee are pleased to be able to provide it.

Finally, Rohan reminded members to please complete the Winter Workshop 2024 feedback form as this will help the team review and enhance the next event.

It has been a great year for Butex, with many goals achieved, and we are looking forward to continuing to support our members in 2025.