

Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher Education (BAAHE)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date: 12 December 2025

Location: University of Namur

Board members present: Bernard De Clerck (acting secretary; remote participation), Sylvie De Cock, Jesse Marion, Jessica Maufort, Eva Ulrike Pirker, Emma-Louise Silva, Lieven Vandelanotte (president)

Apologies for absence: Lot Brems, Caroline Gentens, Lobke Ghesquière, Jennifer Thewissen, Marilize Pretorius

1. Welcome and opening

The meeting was opened at the University of Namur. Lieven Vandelanotte welcomed members and briefly introduced the agenda and the day's activities (AGM followed by the Thesis Award ceremony as part of the BAAHE conference 2025).

2. BAAHE activities (2024–2025)

2.1 Spotlight event: student trips & excursions

A BAAHE spotlight event on student trips & excursions took place in June. Approximately 15 attendees participated with an interesting exchange of tips, tricks and itineraries. Slides from the event remain available online: <https://events.unamur.be/e/trips>. More online events of this type are planned (e.g. on AI and writing assignments), and suggestions for future topics are welcome.

2.2 PhD and postdoc network

A first informal meet-up of a PhD and postdoc network was organised, including an excursion to Antwerp. The activity was organised on behalf of the BAAHE board by Emma-Louise Silva. Approximately 10 attendees took part.

The evaluation was positive, with participants highlighting the opportunity to interact informally with other early-career researchers (ECRs), the value of community-building across institutions and regions, and the potential for future collaborations, reading and

writing, groups, workshops, etc.

The initiative will be continued; interested ECRs are invited to get in touch.

2.3 BAAHE conference

The BAAHE conference 2025 was held in Namur, including a pre-conference symposium which was streamed/recorded.

A preliminary indication was given that the BAAHE conference 2026 is envisaged to take place at UCLouvain. This was made official at the AGM. The chair thanked Sylvie De Cock and the UCLouvain team for taking the initiative.

3. BAAHE communications

The website remains in use as the main information hub. The Facebook page is also being continued and A LinkedIn page has been launched to increase visibility and networking. Numbers are increasing, the network is expanding.

A new mailing list (“listserv”) system has been introduced. All members can post directly to the list without needing to go through the secretary.

Posting address: **baahe@lists.uantwerpen.be**

List homepage: <https://lists.uantwerpen.be/sympa/info/baahe>

Access is limited to paid-up members. Public access remains possible via Facebook and LinkedIn.

4. Updates from the ESSE board

4.1 General updates

The ESSE Doctoral Symposium & Board Meeting took place in Malta in September. A transfer of the ESSE presidency to former BAAHE president Lieven Buysse took place on 1 January 2025. The ESSE membership fee is €9 (included in the BAAHE membership fee). ESSE is still thriving and now has more than 7,500 members, with the largest national associations in France, Spain, Germany, Italy, the UK and Romania.

4.2 Communications & publications

ESSE has withdrawn from X (Twitter) but has added LinkedIn; ESSE is also present on Facebook, Bluesky and the web.

An update is forthcoming on the website about a new ESSE Journal Repository.

The ESSE Messenger (online) continues to catch up on its publication delay.

The European Journal of English Studies (EJES): there is a new book review editor: Nina Engelhardt. The deadline for 2027 issue proposals is 15 January.

ESSE also has a new treasurer and secretary:

Angelika Reichmann replaces Gašper Ilc as treasurer.

Martina Domines replaces Biljana Mišić Ilić as secretary.

4.3 Calls and conferences

As always, there are various interesting ESSE calls: [Research and Support – ESSE](#)

- Bursaries and book awards (deadline 1 February).

- Book and resource grants (deadline 1 May).

- Participation in the Doctoral Symposium and in the ESSE 2026 conference (deadline 31 January).

Members are invited to note the seminars co-organised by Belgian colleagues at ESSE events. ESSE 2028 will be hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University.

5. BAAHE finances

5.1 Fee structure and financial aims

Current fee breakdown:

€9 to ESSE (or €6.75 for non-tenured members),

€30 to John Benjamins for the journal English Text Construction,

Support from FU / US sponsoring of approx. €2,000/year.

Current BAAHE membership fees:

€30 for non-tenured members (including retired faculty),

€40 for tenured members.

BAAHE 2025 renewal automatically registers members as ESSE members for all 2026 purposes (applications, submissions, etc.).

Financial aim: to build a buffer of €6,000 to safeguard continuity should FU/US sponsoring no longer be available in future.

5.2 Annual financial report

The annual financial report was prepared by the treasurer. In line with procedure, the report is signed by two non-board BAAHE members.

5.3 Proposal for an additional fee tier

A trial introduction of an additional fee tier was proposed for Research MA students and PhD students who do not have access to a bench fee (FWO/FNRS) and cannot obtain support from their department or research group to cover the BAAHE membership fee. The proposal would grant such students a reduced membership fee of €15 instead of €30, and would include ESSE membership (with access to ESSE discounts and subsidies) as well as full membership of the BAAHE mailing list.

This would be operated by request to the BAAHE treasurer, to whom the board delegates discretionary power to decide on eligibility.

The proposal was presented at the AGM and unanimously approved by vote at the AGM.

6. News from the journal English Text Construction (ETC)

In addition to the ongoing issues, there are a number of special issues in the pipeline:

- A special issue based on BAAHE's 2024 conference at VUB, "(Trans)portable: English in the world".
- A special issue based on the Brussels Institute for Journalism Studies' 2024 conference, "Voices and sources in the news".
- A special issue based on an ICAME 2025 workshop, "Per Studia Contrastiva ad Astra: Looking Back, Leaping Forward".

The journal continues to publish "online first" articles, accelerating the availability of recent work. Members are kindly encouraged to consider submissions, special issue proposals, and to volunteer as reviewers, all of which are necessary to keep the journal running.

7. Changes on the BAAHE board

Bernard De Clerck will temporarily take over as secretary during Marilize Pretorius' maternity leave.

The following members are leaving the board:

- Jesse Marion, webmaster since 2022.
- Jennifer Thewissen, secretary from 2018-2024 and subsequent regular board member.

The Chair expresses his gratitude for their digital diligence and many years of service.

Declared candidates

- Simon Copet: candidate for webmaster.
- David Lombard: candidate for regular board member.

Both candidates would strengthen early-career representation on the board (PhD student and postdoc respectively).

Their candidacies were put to the AGM and both were unanimously approved.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

AOB