**ROLE OF THE CLUSTER MANAGER**

The cluster manager oversees a specific category of student organizations (such as club sports or publications) and plays a key role in the training, collaboration and success of student organizations. The cluster manager is a knowledgeable member of the student life team and available to answer questions about finances, policies, and procedures. In addition to serving as an expert on student org policies and procedures, cluster managers provide training and encourage collaboration among their cluster of organizations. When challenges arise, the cluster managers are ready to assist group leaders, connect them to helpful resources, and work through organizational difficulties.

Overall, the cluster manager holds the following responsibilities:

- Train student orgs during the re-registration process in the fall. Meet with leaders of new organizations within the cluster.
- Encourage student org usage of MiddLink and maintain an updated MiddLink profile
- Check-in periodically with student orgs and seek out ways to encourage collaboration amongst the cluster
- Stay knowledgeable on student org policies and procedures; communicate relevant updates and changes of policies and procedures to your cluster
- Support student orgs in their event planning process
- Meet regularly with other cluster managers to discuss best practices

**RE-REGISTRATION & NEW ORG REGISTRATION**

Student organizations are required to re-register each fall. This re-registration process includes MiddLink submission, completion of the Student Org Handbook quiz by the president and treasurer, and attendance at a training with their cluster manager. The deadline for this re-registration is October 1st. The Programs Intern in Student Activities will send out reminders for student orgs to re-register and will be in contact with you about training dates and times.

To assist you with the re-registration process, the Student Activities Office (SAO) provides a sample Powerpoint presentation and list of agenda items to cover in the trainings. These resources are also located in the cluster manager Google Drive.

New organizations approved by the SGA Constitution Committee (SGACC) are required to undergo the same steps for student org registration including: MiddLink registration, completion of the Student Org Handbook quiz, and training with their respective cluster manager. These trainings tend to be shorter; make sure that you are relaying pertinent policy information to new leaders. New organizations are created throughout the year, and the deadline for new student
organizations to apply through the SGACC is April 1st. Once a student org is approved by the SGACC, you will be notified via email in order to initiate leader training.

**MiddLink**

Cluster managers have full or partial administrative access to the student org database, MiddLink, and are expected to be active and knowledgeable users of MiddLink. While student org usage of MiddLink varies, there are a range of capabilities and functions that MiddLink provides for the successful management and marketing of current student orgs. Advisors of student orgs are also encouraged to use MiddLink.

Make sure that you are designated as the MiddLink cluster manager for your cluster orgs. To initiate this process, visit the organization’s MiddLink page, and click the Roster tab. Select the Invite People at the top of the page, and you will be prompted to enter an email address for invitation. Once you enter your work email, click the + Add E-Mail Addresses button. A pop-up box will appear with the opportunity to assign your invitation to a specific position (i.e. Member, Advisor, Cluster Manager, etc.). The invitation will appear in your email inbox and in your MiddLink message inbox. Your MiddLink message inbox is located in the top right corner under your name in the Messages subheading. You will need to accept the invitation in order to have cluster manager designation for the organization. A member of the SAO team or the Programs Intern can also help you navigate this process.

Learning how to navigate and maximize your use of MiddLink can be difficult at first. The following resources will help you become a MiddLink expert:

- **MiddLink Video Support Site** – includes helpful how-to videos for MiddLink users
  - [middlebury.collegiatelink.net/support](http://middlebury.collegiatelink.net/support)
- **CollegiateLink Support Site** – full of articles, best practices and previously recorded webinars. A CollegiateLink representative is always available to assist users with questions and issues. You can direct chat with a representative, email the CollegiateLink team or call them at 716-270-0000.
  - [support.collegiatelink.net](http://support.collegiatelink.net)
- **Campus Labs Youtube Channel** – contains a video archive of CollegiateLink’s webinars on student engagement, assessment and institutional effectiveness
  - [www.youtube.com/user/CampusLabs](http://www.youtube.com/user/CampusLabs)

**Collaboration**

The cluster manager model allows student orgs to collaborate more often and effectively with orgs that share similar interests. As a cluster manager, one of your responsibilities is to help encourage
this collaboration on events, fundraisers, etc. To help promote collaboration amongst student
orgs, it is important to be aware of the Student Government Association Finance Committee
(SGAFC) guidelines (located at go/sgafc) that dictate responsible spending and to promote best
practices in event planning, as articulated in the Student Org Handbook.

The Student Activities Office (SAO) also promotes student org collaboration through events and
communication. Cocoa and Collaboration, an annual event during Jterm, is an opportunity for
student orgs to meet with each other and create event proposals for unique collaborations. The
event proposal winner receives a small amount of funding from the SAO. Please encourage your
cluster to attend this event and consider hosting a similar event for your student orgs.

Events that involve co-sponsorship with College departments require attentive oversight. The
SAO works to carefully document and reconcile any funding contributed by departments. To
facilitate this process, we created the SAO departmental collaboration form. When departmental
funds are promised to support a student org event, we ask that you instruct the student point
person to provide the link below to the budget administrator of the contributing department. The
information it collects streamlines the collaborative and reconciliation process and is required as
part of event budget planning. This form is available at: https://forms.middlebury.edu/student-
life/community-living/activities/sao-collaboration-form.

Policy and Procedure
Student org policies and procedures are updated and edited throughout the year. As the cluster
manager, it is important for you to maintain a working knowledge of the policies that directly
affect your cluster. Whenever a policy or procedure changes, student orgs are notified by the
SAO through email or Word on College Street (WoCS); WoCS is a regular student org
newsletter created by the Programs Intern. These policy and procedure changes are discussed
during the monthly or bimonthly cluster manager meeting and are also added to the Student Org
Handbook. Questions about current student org policy can be directed to a member of the SAO
team at anytime.

For the 16-17 academic year, the biggest policy and procedural changes pertain to fundraising,
political activity, grants and student org travel. Learn more about these changes in Section 2 and
Section 4 of the Student Org Handbook at go/studentorghandbook.

Org Management Tips
Outside of the responsibilities listed above, your work with student org cluster depends entirely
on your capacity throughout the academic year and your managing style.
Suggestions for org management and staying in touch with your cluster include:

- Monthly or bimonthly meetings with your cluster
- Drop-in office hours specifically for student orgs
- MiddLink relay messages for check-in
- Connecting with student org advisors individual or as a group (i.e. brownbag lunch)

**Resources**

To assist in your role as cluster manager, the SAO created a helpful Google Drive that contains resources on student leader training, financial management, MiddLink and event planning. Feel free to incorporate these resources in your work with student orgs. The Google Drive can be accessed here: [https://goo.gl/A9PaMY](https://goo.gl/A9PaMY)

**Current Cluster Managers**

Each cluster manager holds a specific set of skills and knowledge related to student org management and success. We encourage you to reach out to other cluster managers to seek advice and build collaboration. Current cluster managers include:

Doug Adams, *Associate Dean of Students for Residential and Student Life*
Clusters: Commons Councils and Social Houses

Derek Doucet, *Associate Dean of Students for Student Activities and Orientation*
Clusters: Debate

Roman Christiaens, *Assistant Director of Student Organizations & Orientation*
Clusters: Publications and Visual Arts organizations

Doug Connelly, *Director of Outdoor Programs and Club Sports*
Cluster: Club Sports

Sophie Esser Calvi, *Global Food Studies Coordinator*
Cluster: Food organizations

Maria Farnsworth, *Student Activities Office and Budget Manager*
Cluster: Special Interest organizations

Jennifer Herrera, *Associate Director for the Anderson Freeman Resource Center*
Cluster: Middlebury Intercultural Leaders Coalition (MILC) organizations

David Kloepfer, *Assistant Director of Student Activities for Programming & Events*
Clusters: A Capella groups, MCAB, and Performing Arts organizations

Ashley Laux, *Associate Director of the Center for Community Engagement*
Cluster: Service Cluster Board organizations

Amy McGlashan, *Director of Academic Outreach and Special Projects*
Cluster: Academic organizations

Ellen McKay, *Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life Administrative Program Coordinator*
Cluster: Religious Life Council (RLC) organizations
Amanda Reinhardt, Assistant Director of Orientation
Cluster: Recreation organizations
Charlotte Tate, Associate Director of the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs
Cluster: Model United Nations
Baishakhi Taylor, Dean of Students
Cluster: Activist and Political organizations

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

The SAO team is here to support you. SAO can be reached at (802) 443-3628 or email (student_activities@middlebury.edu). Check out our website at go/studentactivities for additional resources and information.
**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **July 1**  ○ Beginning of the new fiscal year
- **Mid-August**  ○ Student Activities sends registration instructions to all orgs’ primary contacts (listed in MiddLink) and org email accounts
- **September 12**  ○ Mandatory student org re-registration meetings begin
- **September 16**  ○ Fall Activities Fair from 4:30-6:00pm on McCullough Lawn
- **September 19**  ○ MiddAction Fair from 6-7:30pm in Wilson Hall
- **October 1**  ○ SGA Constitution Committee will begin accepting proposals for new student organizations
  ○ Deadline for existing student orgs to re-register through MiddLink or else be considered inactive and have budgets frozen
- **November 15**  ○ Deadline for budget requests from the SGA Finance Committee
- **December 1**  ○ Deadline for orgs under review by the SGA Constitution Committee to submit materials
- **December 14**  ○ Deadline to submit all vouchers and receipts for the fall semester
- **January**  ○ Annual review of student orgs by the SGA Constitution Committee
- **February 24**  ○ Spring Activities Fair from 4:30-6:00pm in McCullough
- **April**  ○ Budget presentations to the SGA Finance Committee begin
- **April 1**  ○ Deadline for new student org applications
  ○ Deadline to submit new money requests to the SGA Finance Committee
- **May 6**  ○ Deadline for ticketed student org performances
- **May 12**  ○ Last day for all student org spending
- **May 15**  ○ Deadline for distribution of spring publications
- **May 18**  ○ Deadline to submit all vouchers and receipts for the spring semester
- **June 30**  ○ End of the fiscal year