

ASPEN GROUP, INC.  
Form PRE 14A  
February 02, 2018

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

(Rule 14a-101)

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by Registrant  [X]

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Check the appropriate box:

[X] Preliminary Proxy Statement  [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission  
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[ ] Definitive Proxy Statement  [ ] Definitive Additional Materials

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to §240.14a-12

**Aspen Group, Inc.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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- (1) Amount previously paid:
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- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:



**Aspen Group, Inc.**

**1660 South Albion Street, Suite 525**

**Denver, CO 80222**

**(303) 333-4224**

To the shareholders of Aspen:

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders (the Annual Meeting) of Aspen Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation (Aspen or the Company), which will be held at 10:00 a.m., local time on March 19, 2018 at \_\_\_\_\_, for the following purposes:

1.

To elect 10 members to Aspen's Board of Directors;

2.

To ratify prior amendments increasing the amount of shares issuable under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan to 3,500,000 shares;

3.

To ratify the shares issued and issuable in connection with the acquisition of United States University;

4.

To approve Aspen's executive officer compensation;

5.

To ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018; and

6.

To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Aspen's Board of Directors (the Board) has fixed the close of business on January 24, 2018 as the date (the Record Date) for a determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this Annual Meeting or any adjournment

thereof.

**Important notice regarding the availability of proxy materials for the Annual Meeting to be held on March 19, 2018. This Proxy Statement and Form 10-K are available at: <https://www.proxyvote.com>.**

### **If You Plan to Attend**

Please note that space limitations make it necessary to limit attendance to shareholders. Registration and seating will begin at 9:45 a.m. Shares can be voted at the meeting only if the holder is present in person or by valid proxy.

For admission to the meeting, each shareholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport, and proof of stock ownership as of the Record Date, such as the enclosed proxy card or a brokerage statement reflecting stock ownership. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the meeting.

If you do not plan on attending the meeting, please vote your shares via the internet, by phone or by signing and dating the enclosed proxy and return it in the business envelope provided. Your vote is very important.

By the Order of the Board of Directors

*/s/ Michael Mathews*  
*Michael Mathews*  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: February \_\_, 2018

Whether or not you expect to attend in person, we urge you to vote your shares at your earliest convenience. This will ensure the presence of a quorum at the meeting. Promptly voting your shares via the Internet, by phone or by signing, dating, and returning the enclosed proxy card will save us the expenses and extra work of additional solicitation. An addressed envelope for which no postage is required if mailed in the United States is enclosed if you wish to vote by mail. Submitting your proxy now will not prevent you from voting your shares at the meeting if you desire to do so, as your proxy is revocable at your option. Your vote is important, so please act today!



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**ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**Why am I receiving these materials?**

These proxy materials are being sent to the holders of shares of the voting stock of Aspen in connection with the solicitation of proxies by Aspen's Board for use at the Annual Meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2018 at \_\_\_\_\_ . The proxy materials relating to the Annual Meeting are first being mailed to shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting on or about February \_\_\_\_, 2018. A copy of the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2017 (the 2017 Fiscal Year ) is being mailed concurrently with this Proxy Statement.

**Who is entitled to vote?**

The Board has fixed the close of business on January 24, 2018 as the record date (the Record Date ) for a determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. On the Record Date, there were 15,027,343 shares of common stock outstanding. Each share of the Company's common stock represents one vote that may be voted on each matter that may come before the Annual Meeting. There are no shares of preferred stock that are entitled to vote.

**What is the difference between holding shares as a record holder and as a beneficial owner?**

If your shares are registered in your name with the Company's transfer agent, Action Stock Transfer Corporation, you are the record holder of those shares. If you are a record holder, these proxy materials have been provided directly to you by the Company.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account, a bank or other holder of record, you are considered the beneficial owner of those shares held in street name. If your shares are held in street name, these proxy materials have been forwarded to you by that organization. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to instruct this organization on how to vote your shares.

### **Who may attend the meeting?**

Record holders and beneficial owners may attend the Annual Meeting. If your shares are held in street name, you will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement or other documentation reflecting your stock ownership as of the Record Date. Please see below for instructions on how to vote at the Annual Meeting if your shares are held in street name.

### **How do I vote?**

#### *Record Holder*

1. Vote by Internet. The website address for internet voting is on your proxy card.
2. Vote by phone. Call 702-544-0195 and follow the instructions on your proxy card.
3. Vote by mail. Mark, date, sign and mail promptly the enclosed proxy card (a postage-paid envelope is provided for mailing in the United States).
4. Vote in person. Attend and vote at the Annual Meeting.

If you vote by Internet or phone, please DO NOT mail your proxy card.

#### *Beneficial Owner (Holding Shares in Street Name)*

1. Vote by Internet. The website address for internet voting is on your proxy card.
2. Vote by mail. Mark, date, sign and mail promptly the enclosed proxy card (a postage-paid envelope is provided for mailing in the United States).
3. Vote in person. Obtain a valid legal proxy from the organization that holds your shares and attend and vote at the Annual Meeting.





**What constitutes a quorum?**

To carry on the business of the Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum. A quorum is present when a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote, as of the Record Date, are represented in person or by proxy. Shares owned by the Company are not considered outstanding or considered to be present at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes (because there are non-routine matters presented at the Annual Meeting) and abstentions are counted as present for the purpose of determining the existence of a quorum.

**What happens if the Company is unable to obtain a quorum?**

If a quorum is not present to transact business at the Annual Meeting or if we do not receive sufficient votes in favor of the proposals by the date of the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting to permit solicitation of proxies.

**Which proposals are considered Routine or Non-Routine ?**

Proposals 2 and 5 are routine.

Proposals 1, 3, and 4 are non-routine.

**What is a broker non-vote?**

If your shares are held in street name, you must instruct the organization who holds your shares how to vote your shares. If you do not provide voting instructions, your shares will not be voted on any non-routine proposal. This vote is called a broker non-vote. Broker non-votes do not count as a vote FOR or AGAINST any of the Proposals.

If you are the shareholder of record, and you sign and return a proxy card without giving specific voting instructions, then the proxy holders will vote your shares in the manner recommended by the Board on all matters presented in this Proxy Statement and as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote at the meeting. If your shares are held in street name and you do not provide specific voting instructions to the organization that holds your shares, the organization may generally vote at its discretion on routine

matters, but not on non-routine matters. If you sign your proxy card but do not provide instructions on how your broker should vote, your broker will vote your shares as recommended by the Board on any non-routine matter. See the note below and the following question and answer.

**Important rule affecting beneficial owners holding shares in street name.**

Brokers may no longer use discretionary authority to vote shares on the election of directors if they have not received instructions from their clients. Please submit your proxy card so your vote is counted.

**How are abstentions treated?**

Abstentions only have an effect on the outcome of any matter being voted on that requires the approval based on the Company's total voting stock outstanding. Thus, abstentions have no effect on any of the proposals.

**How many votes are needed for each proposal to pass, is broker discretionary voting allowed and what is the effect of an abstention?**

<b>Proposals</b>		<b>Vote Required</b>	<b>Broker Discretionary Vote Allowed</b>	<b>Effect of Abstentions on the Proposal</b>
(1)	To elect members to Aspen's Board of Directors	Plurality	No	No effect*
(2)	To ratify prior amendments increasing the amount of shares issuable under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan to 3,500,000 shares	Majority of the votes cast	Yes	No effect*
(3)	To ratify the shares issued and issuable in connection with the acquisition of United States University	Majority of the votes cast	No	No effect*
(4)	To approve Aspen's named executive officer compensation	Majority of the votes cast	No	No effect*
(5)	To ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018	Majority of the votes cast	Yes	No effect *

\*

Abstentions will reduce the number of affirmative votes received, but not the required number of votes or percentage needed for the proposal to pass.

**What are the voting procedures?**

In voting by proxy with regard to the election of directors, you may vote in favor of all nominees, withhold your votes as to all nominees, or withhold your votes as to specific nominees. With regard to the remaining proposals, you may vote in favor of each proposal or against each proposal, or in favor of some proposals and against others, or you may abstain from voting on any of these proposals. You should specify your respective choices on the accompanying proxy card or your proxy card.

**Is my proxy revocable?**

You may revoke your proxy and reclaim your right to vote up to and including the day of the Annual Meeting by giving written notice to the Corporate Secretary of Aspen, by delivering a proxy card dated after the date of the proxy or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. All written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to revocations of proxies should be addressed to: Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Street, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222 Attention: Corporate Secretary.

**Who is paying for the expenses involved in preparing and mailing this proxy statement?**

All of the expenses involved in preparing, assembling and mailing these proxy materials and all costs of soliciting proxies will be paid by the Company. In addition to the solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited by the Company's officers and regular employees by telephone or in person. Such persons will receive no compensation for their services other than their regular salaries. Arrangements will also be made with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of the shares held of record by such persons, and we may reimburse such persons for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by them in so doing. We may hire an independent proxy solicitation firm.

**What happens if additional matters are presented at the Annual Meeting?**

Other than the items of business described in this Proxy Statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. If you submit a signed proxy card, the persons named as proxy holders will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting. If for any reason any of the Company's nominees are not available as a candidate for director, the persons named as proxy holders will vote your proxy for such other candidate or candidates as may be nominated by the Board.

**What if a quorum is not present at the Annual Meeting?**

If a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the Annual Meeting, then Mr. Michael Mathews, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, or Ms. Janet Gill, the Company's Chief Financial Officer, are authorized to adjourn the annual meeting until a quorum is present or represented.

**What is householding and how does it affect me?**

Record holders who have the same address and last name will receive only one copy of their proxy materials, unless we are notified that one or more of these record holders wishes to continue receiving individual copies. This procedure will reduce the Company's printing costs and postage fees. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards.

If you are eligible for householding, but you and other record holders with whom you share an address, receive multiple copies of these proxy materials, or if you hold Aspen stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of each of these documents for your household, please contact the Company's Corporate Secretary at: Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Street, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222 Attention: Corporate Secretary.

If you participate in householding and wish to receive a separate copy of these proxy materials, or if you do not wish to continue to participate in householding and prefer to receive separate copies of these documents in the future, please contact the Company's Corporate Secretary as indicated above. Beneficial owners can request information about householding from their brokers, banks or other holders of record.

**Do I have dissenters (appraisal) rights?**

Appraisal rights are not available to Aspen shareholders with any of the proposals brought before the Annual Meeting.

**Can a shareholder present a proposal to be considered at the Annual Meeting?**

For a shareholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in the Company's Proxy Statement and proxy card for the next Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, (the Exchange Act, ) the following is required:

For a shareholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in Aspen's Proxy Statement and proxy card for the next Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as the "Exchange Act," our Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal no later than September \_\_\_, 2018, which is 120 calendar days prior to the anniversary date Aspen's Proxy Statement was mailed to shareholders in connection with this Annual Meeting. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of shareholder proposals in company sponsored materials.

Our Bylaws include advance notice provisions that require shareholders desiring to recommend or nominate individuals to the Board or who wish to present a proposal at the next Annual Meeting must do so in accordance with the terms of the advance notice provisions. For a shareholder proposal or a nomination that is not intended to be included in Aspen's Proxy Statement and proxy card under Rule 14a-8, our Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal not later than the close of business on the 120th day (or September \_\_\_, 2018) nor earlier than the close of business on the 150th day prior to the anniversary of the date on which Aspen released its proxy materials to its shareholders for this year's Annual Meeting (or August \_\_\_, 2018); provided, however, that in the event that the date of the next Annual Meeting is advanced more than 30 days prior to or delayed by more than 30 days after the anniversary of this year's Annual Meeting, for notice by the shareholder to be timely, such shareholder's written notice must be delivered to the secretary not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the next Annual Meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made, whichever is later. Your notice must contain the specific information set forth in our Bylaws.

Additionally, you must be a record holder at the time you deliver your notice to the Corporate Secretary and are entitled to vote at the next Annual Meeting.

A nomination or other proposal will be disregarded if it does not comply with the above procedures. All proposals and nominations should be sent to Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Street, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222 Attention: Corporate Secretary.

We reserve the right to amend the Company's Bylaws and any change will apply to the next Annual Meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

**Interest of Officers and Directors in Matters to Be Acted Upon**

Except in the election to the Company's nominees, none of the officers or directors have any interest in any of the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting.

**The Board Recommends that Shareholders Vote For Proposal Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.**



**PROPOSAL 1. TO ELECT MEMBERS TO ASPEN S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We currently have 10 directors. The terms of all of the Company s current directors will expire at this Annual Meeting. The Board proposes the election of the following 10 nominees as directors:

Michael Mathews

Michael D Anton

Norman Dicks

C. James Jensen

Andrew Kaplan

Malcolm MacLean IV

Sanford Rich

John Scheibelhoffer

Rick Solomon

Oksana Malysheva

All of the nominees listed above are currently directors of the Company. All of the nominees have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected. The ten persons who receive the most votes cast will be elected and will serve as directors until the next Annual Meeting. If a nominee becomes unavailable for election before this Annual Meeting, the Board can name a substitute nominee and proxies will be voted for such substitute nominee unless an instruction to the contrary is written on the proxy card. The principal occupation and certain other information about the nominees and the Company's executive officers are set forth on the following pages.

**The Board recommends a vote For the election of the nominated slate of directors.**

### **Director Nominee biographies**

Michael Mathews has served as Aspen's Chief Executive Officer and a director since March 2012 and as Chief Executive Officer of Aspen University Inc., a subsidiary of Aspen, since May 2011. He served as Chief Executive Officer of interclick, inc. (Nasdaq: ICLK) from August 28, 2007 until January 31, 2011. From June 2007 until it was acquired by Yahoo, Inc. (NASDAQ: YHOO) in December 2011, Mr. Mathews also served as a director of interclick. From May 15, 2008 until June 30, 2008, Mr. Mathews served as the interim Chief Financial Officer of interclick. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Mathews served as the senior vice-president of marketing and publisher services for World Avenue U.S.A., LLC, an Internet promotional marketing company. Mr. Mathews was selected to serve as a director due to his knowledge of the for profit education industry, his commitment to a debt free education, his track record of success in managing early stage and growing businesses, his extensive knowledge of the online education internet marketing industries and his knowledge of running and serving on the boards of public companies.

Michael D Anton has served as a director of Aspen since March 2012 and of Aspen University for approximately 13 years. Since 1988, Dr. D Anton has been an ENT physician and surgeon at ENT Allergy Associates. Dr. D Anton was selected as a director for his experience in growing and running a successful surgery center and his knowledge of Aspen University from serving as a director prior to the 2011 Reverse Merger.

Norman D. Dicks has served as a director since November 17, 2016. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives for approximately 36 years. He has served as Senior Policy Advisor to law firm Van Ness Feldman LLP since 2013, advising clients on a wide-range of public policy, strategic, and regulatory issues, particularly those in the environmental sector. Prior to joining the firm, Congressman Dicks represented Washington State's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District from 1977-2013, during which time he received a first-term appointment to the House Appropriations Committee; a committee he served on for his entire tenure in Congress. In addition, Congressman Dicks served on and chaired the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee; where he made environmental issues a priority, and worked on issues affecting the National Parks, National Forests, and Native American issues. Congressman Dicks also was the chair of the Defense Appropriations Committee, and concluded his tenure in Congress as top-ranking Democratic Member on that Committee, and top-ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. From 1990 to 1998, Congressman Dicks served on the House Intelligence Committee and was awarded the CIA Directors Medal. Upon his retirement, Congressman Dicks received the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon a civilian, for his work on behalf of military members and their families. Congressman Dicks was appointed a director for his experience and expertise on a wide range of public policy, strategic and regulatory issues. Given the regulatory nature of our business, Congressman Dicks' experience provides invaluable insight and advice to the Board and management through this critical time as we prepare to offer our debtless education solution to adults across America.

C. James Jensen has served as a director of Aspen since March 2012 and of Aspen University since May 2011. Since 1983, Mr. Jensen has been the managing partner of Mara Gateway Associates, L.P., a privately owned real estate investment company he co-founded. Today, Mr. Jensen provides executive coaching, consulting, and advisory services to emerging growth and mid-size companies. He is an active member of the World Presidents' Organization, serves on the board of directors of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, and is Vice Chairman of American Global Health Group. Mr. Jensen was selected as a director due to his previous service on public company boards and his experience with entrepreneurial companies. Mr. Jensen is also the author of 7 KEYS To Unlock Your Full Potential. ([www.unlock7keys.com](http://www.unlock7keys.com)).

Andrew Kaplan has served as a director of Aspen since June 2014. Since January 1, 2015, Mr. Kaplan has been a Managing General Partner in Education Growth Partners, a private equity firm focused exclusively on the education and training industry. From 2000 through March 2014, Mr. Kaplan was a partner in Quad Partners, or Quad, a private equity firm focused exclusively on the education industry. During his tenure with Quad, Mr. Kaplan also served as a Managing Director of Quad College Group, the operational team focused on Quad's postsecondary portfolio. From March 2014 to December 2014, Mr. Kaplan was a consultant to the education industry. Mr. Kaplan was selected as a director for his extensive knowledge of the educational industry. From May 2014 until June 2015, Mr. Kaplan, through an entity he controls, served as a consultant to Aspen.

Malcolm F. MacLean IV has served as a director of Aspen since November 17, 2016. Mr. MacLean is the Managing Partner and Director of Tokyo-based Star Asia Group, which Mr. MacLean co-founded in 2006. Mr. MacLean is responsible for the day-to-day investment activities at the firm as co-Chair of the Investment Committee. Mr. MacLean is also the co-Founder and Managing Member of Taurus Capital Partners LLC, based in Los Angeles, which makes opportunistic investments in public and private companies, partnerships and other structured vehicles. Mr.

MacLean was selected as a director for his extensive investment banking experience, history of entrepreneurial success and large business operational expertise.

Sanford Rich has served as a director of Aspen since March 2012. Since January 2016 Mr. Rich has served as the Executive Director of the New York City Board of Education Retirement System. From September 2012 to January 2016, Mr. Rich has served as the Chief of Negotiations and Restructuring for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (a United States Government Agency). From October 2011 to September 2012, Mr. Rich served as Chief Executive Officer of In The Car LLC. Mr. Rich served as a director of interclick from August 28, 2007 until June 5, 2009 and as Audit Committee Chairman from August 2007 to June 2009. From February 2009 to December 2012 Mr. Rich was a Managing Director of Whitemarsh Capital Advisors, a broker-dealer. Since April 2006, Mr. Rich has served as a director and Audit Committee Chairman for InsPro Technologies (OTCQB: ITCC). Mr. Rich was selected as a director for his 35 years of experience in the financial sector and his experience serving on the audit committees of public companies.

John Scheibelhoffer has served as a director of Aspen since March 2012 and of Aspen University for approximately 10 years. Since 1996, Dr. Scheibelhoffer has been a physician and surgeon employed by ENT Allergy Associates. Dr. Scheibelhoffer was selected to serve as a director for his experience in running a successful surgery center and his knowledge of Aspen University from serving as a director prior to its 2012 acquisition by the Company.

Rick Solomon has served as a director of Aspen since March 2014. From May 2009 until May 2014, Mr. Solomon served as a portfolio manager at Verition Fund, a multi-strategy, multi-manager investment platform. Mr. Solomon was selected as a director for his experience in the investment industry. From July 2015 to July 2016 Mr. Solomon was a partner at Renrel Partners, LLC. From February 2015 until October 2016 Mr. Solomon was an associated person of Tripoint Global Equities, LLC, a registered broker-dealer.

Oksana Malysheva has served as a director of Aspen since December 2017. Ms. Malysheva is the Manager of Linden Education Partners LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, which is an affiliate of Educaci n Significat va, LLC (“ES”), a Delaware limited liability company. ES previously did business as United States University prior to Aspen’s acquisition of United States University from it.

## CURRENT DIRECTORS

The following table represents the Company’s current directors and their current position on the Board, if any:

### Directors

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Michael Mathews	56	Chairman of the Board
Michael D Anton	60	Director
Norman Dicks	77	Director
C. James Jensen	76	Director
Andrew Kaplan	52	Director
Malcolm MacLean IV	48	Director
Sanford Rich	59	Director
John Scheibelhoffer	56	Director
Rick Solomon	56	Director
Oksana Malysheva	—	Director

### Executive Officers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Michael Mathews	56	Chief Executive Officer
Janet Gill	62	Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Cheri St. Arnauld	61	Chief Academic Officer
Gerald Wendolowski	32	Chief Operating Officer

See above for Mr. Michael Mathews' biography.

Janet Gill has been the Company's Chief Financial Officer since December 11, 2014 and served as the interim Chief Financial Officer from March 11, 2014 until December 11, 2014. From September 2012 until March 11, 2014, Ms. Gill was the Company's Controller. Ms. Gill is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive) in New York.

Cheri St. Arnauld has been Aspen's Chief Academic Officer since March 6, 2014. From January 2012 until March 6, 2014, Dr. St. Arnauld was an educational consultant for the St. Arnauld Group.

Gerard Wendolowski has been Aspen's Chief Operating Officer since March 11, 2014. From May 2011 until March 11, 2014, Mr. Wendolowski served as Aspen University's Senior Vice President of Marketing and Business Development.

### **Family Relationships**

There are no family relationships among our directors and/or executive officers.

### **Board Responsibilities**

The Board oversees, counsels, and directs management in the long-term interest of Aspen and its shareholders. The Board's responsibilities include establishing broad corporate policies and reviewing the overall performance of Aspen. The Board is not, however, involved in the operating details on a day-to-day basis. Since December 2017, our Board has had an Executive Committee which, subject to the limitations of Delaware law, has performed the functions of the Board.

## Board Committees and Charters

The Board and its committees meet throughout the year and act by written consent from time to time as appropriate. The Board delegates various responsibilities and authority to its Board committees. Committees regularly report on their activities and actions to the Board. The Board currently has and appoints the members of: the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee have written charters approved by the Board which can be found on our corporate website at <https://ir.aspen.edu/governance-docs> .

The following table identifies the independent and non-independent current Board and committee members:

Name	Independent	Executive	Audit	Compensation	Nominating
Michael Mathews					
Michael D Anton	X				X
C. James Jensen	X	X	X	Chairman	
Andrew Kaplan	X	X			X
Sanford Rich	X	X	Chairman		
John Scheibelhoffer	X			X	
Rick Solomon	X		X		
Malcolm MacLean IV	X				X
Norman Dicks	X			X	
Oksana Malysheva					

During the 2017 Fiscal Year, all of the directors attended over 75% of the Board and committee meetings for which the directors served. Aspen does not have a policy regarding director attendance at annual shareholder meetings.

## Director Independence

With the exception of Michael Mathews and Oksana Malysheva, our Executive Committee determined that all of the directors are independent in accordance with standards under the Nasdaq Listing Rules.

Our Executive Committee determined that as a result of being employed as an executive officer, Mr. Mathews is not independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules. Based on the advice of our counsel, our Executive Committee

determined that as a result of being the managing partner of Linden Education Partners LLC, the company from which we purchased the assets of United States University, Oksana Malysheva is not independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules.

Our Executive Committee has also determined that Rick Solomon, Sanford Rich and C. James Jensen are independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules independence standards for Audit Committee members. Also, our Executive Committee has determined that C. James Jensen, Norman D. Dicks and John Scheibelhoffer are independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules independence standards for Compensation Committee members. Also, our Executive Committee has determined that Michael D Anton, Andrew Kaplan, and Malcolm MacLean IV are independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules independence standards for Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees. Also, our Executive Committee has determined that C. James Jensen, Andrew Kaplan, and Sanford Rich are independent under the Nasdaq Listing Rules independence standards for Executive Committees.

### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

#### **Executive Committee**

The function of the Executive Committee is to provide a committee for the Company which can approve of corporate actions efficiently or in a timely fashion when the full Board is unavailable or unreachable. The Executive Committee was established after our 2017 fiscal year in December 2017 and did not hold any meetings in the 2017 Fiscal Year.



### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee reviews Aspen's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board and administers our engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of its examinations, the evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls. The Audit Committee had four meetings in the 2017 Fiscal Year.

### **Audit Committee Financial Expert**

Our Board has determined that Mr. Sanford Rich is qualified as an Audit Committee Financial Expert, as that term is defined by the rules of the SEC and in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

### **Compensation Committee**

The function of the Compensation Committee is to determine the compensation of our executive officers. The Compensation Committee has the power to set performance targets for determining periodic bonuses payable to executive officers and may review and make recommendations with respect to shareholder proposals related to compensation matters. Additionally, the Compensation Committee is responsible for administering the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (the Plan). The Compensation Committee had one meeting in the 2017 Fiscal Year.

### **Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee**

The responsibilities of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee include the identification of individuals qualified to become Board members, the selection of nominees to stand for election as directors, the oversight of the selection and composition of committees of the Board, establish procedures for the nomination process including procedures, oversight of possible conflicts of interests involving the Board and its members, develop corporate governance principles, and the oversight of the evaluations of the Board and management. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has not established a policy with regard to the consideration of any candidates recommended by shareholders. If we receive any shareholder recommended nominations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will carefully review the recommendation(s) and consider such recommendation(s) in good faith. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee had no meetings in the 2017 Fiscal Year.

### **Number of meetings of the board for fiscal year 2017**

In the 2017 Fiscal Year the Board had five meetings and acted by unanimous consent on thirteen occasions. There were no directors (who were incumbent at the time) who attended fewer than 75 percent of the total meetings or committee meetings of the Board for the 2017 Fiscal Year.

### **Board Diversity**

While we do not have a formal policy on diversity, our Board considers diversity to include the skill set, background, reputation, type and length of business experience of our Board members as well as a particular nominee's contributions to that mix. Our Board believes that diversity brings a variety of ideas, judgments and considerations that benefit Aspen and its shareholders. Although there are many other factors, the Board seeks individuals with experience on public company boards or the investment community, experience on operating growing businesses, and experience with online universities.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

We have chosen to combine the Chief Executive Officer and Board Chairman positions. We believe that this Board leadership structure is the most appropriate for Aspen. Because we are a small company, it is more efficient to have the leadership of the Board in the same hands as the Chief Executive Officer. The challenges faced by us at this stage implementing our business and marketing plan and continuing and managing our growth are most efficiently dealt with by one person who is familiar with both the operational aspects as well as the strategic aspects of our business.

## **Board Risk Oversight**

Our risk management function is overseen by our Board. Our management keeps its Board apprised of material risks and provides its directors access to all information necessary for them to understand and evaluate how these risks interrelate, how they affect us, and how management addresses those risks. Mr. Michael Mathews, as our Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, works closely together with the Board once material risks are identified on how to best address such risks. If the identified risk poses an actual or potential conflict with management, our independent directors may conduct the assessment. Presently, the primary risks affecting us are our ability to grow our business, increase our enrollment and class starts, reduce the dependence on the continued growth of our nursing school and manage our expected growth consistent with regulatory oversight. In addition, while not under the direct control of our Board, there is the regulatory risk that our planned acquisition of United States University may not be approved. Assuming we complete the acquisition, integration of United States University and our ability to grow its business will be material risks our Board will be required to focus on.

## **Code of Ethics**

Our Board has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to all of our employees, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Although not required, the Code of Ethics also applies to our directors. The Code of Ethics provides written standards that we believe are reasonably designed to deter wrongdoing and promote honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships, full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure and compliance with laws, rules and regulations, including insider trading, corporate opportunities and whistleblowing or the prompt reporting of illegal or unethical behavior. We will provide a copy, without charge, to anyone that requests one in writing to Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Our Code of Ethics can be found on our corporate website at <https://ir.aspen.edu/governance-docs> .

## **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors, executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock to file initial reports of ownership and changes in ownership of our common stock and other equity securities with the SEC. These individuals are required by the regulations of the SEC to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of the copies of the forms furnished to us, and written representations from reporting persons, we believe that all filing requirements applicable to our officers, directors and 10% beneficial owners were complied with during the 2017 Fiscal Year except for Form 4s due in September 2016 related to the extension of a total of 13 stock option grants to the Company's executive officers and directors detailed below. The late filings were inadvertent and were a result of omission by the Company's counsel to file as instructed. The following details the name of the Section 16 filer and the number of late transactions: (i) Michael Mathews 5, (ii)

Janet Gill 1, (iii) Gerard Wendolowski 2 (iv) Michael D Anton 2, (v) Sanford Rich 1, (vi) John Scheibelhoffer 1 and (vii) James Jensen 1.

### **Communication with our Board of Directors**

Although we do not have a formal policy regarding communications with the Board, shareholders may communicate with the Board by writing to us at Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Shareholders who would like their submission directed to a member of the Board may so specify, and the communication will be forwarded, as appropriate.

### **Related person transactions since end of last fiscal year**

On January 3, 2018, the Company granted a total of 180,000 stock options to the non-employee directors on the Company's Board. The January 3, 2018, options vest in equal increments on December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, subject to continued service as a director or committee member on each applicable vesting date.

On May 13, 2017, the Company granted its executive officers a total of 500,000 five-year stock options to purchase shares of the Company's common stock under the Company's Plan.

On June 11, 2017, the Company granted Cheri St. Arnauld a total of 30,000 five-year stock options to purchase shares of the Company's common stock under the Company's Plan.

**Voting securities and principal holders thereof**

The following table sets forth the number of shares of Aspen's common stock beneficially owned as of January 24, 2018, by (i) those persons known by Aspen to be owners of more than 5% of its common stock, (ii) each director and director nominee, (iii) the Named Executive Officers (as disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table), and (iv) Aspen's executive officers and directors as a group. Unless otherwise specified in the notes to this table, the address for each person is: c/o Aspen Group, Inc. 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222.

<b>Title of Class</b>	<b>Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount of Beneficial Ownership (1)</b>	<b>Percent Beneficially Owned (1)</b>
<b>Named Executive Officers:</b>			
Common Stock	Michael Mathews (2)	862,750	5.6%
Common Stock	Cheri St. Arnauld (3)	124,168	*
Common Stock	Gerard Wendolowski (4)	148,612	1.0%
<b>Directors:</b>			
Common Stock	Michael D. Anton (5)	248,987	1.7%
Common Stock	Norman D. Dicks (6)	13,889	*
Common Stock	C. James Jensen (7)	225,661	1.5%
Common Stock	Andrew Kaplan (8)	70,662	*
Common Stock	Malcolm MacLean (9)	644,365	4.3%
Common Stock	Sanford Rich (10)	43,683	*
Common Stock	John Scheibelhoffer (11)	250,217	1.7%
Common Stock	Rick Solomon (12)	273,712	1.8%
Common Stock	Oksana Malysheva (13)	1,203,209	8.0%
Common Stock	All directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons) (14)	4,253,146	26.3%
<b>5% Shareholders:</b>			
Common Stock	Kinderhook 2 GP, LLC (15)	1,026,486	6.8%
Common Stock	Goudy Park Management, LLC (16)	1,002,044	6.7%
Common Stock	Leon G. Cooperman (17)	1,000,000	6.7%
Common Stock	Alvin Fund LLC(18)	816,601	5.4%

\* Less than 1%.

- (1) **Beneficial Ownership Note.** Applicable percentages are based on 15,027,343 shares outstanding as of January 24, 2018. Beneficial ownership is determined under the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. A person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of securities that can be acquired by such person within 60 days whether upon the exercise of options, warrants or conversion of notes. Unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes to this table, Aspen believes that each of the shareholders named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock indicated as beneficially owned by them. This table does not include any unvested stock options except for those vesting within 60 days.
- (2) **Mathews.** Mr. Mathews is our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Includes: 86,305 shares underlying warrants and 262,500 vested stock options.
- (3) **St. Arnauld.** Dr. St. Arnauld is our Chief Academic Officer. Represents vested stock options.
- (4) **Wendolowski.** Mr. Wendolowski is our Chief Operating Officer. Includes 136,112 in vested stock options.
- (5) **D Anton.** Dr. D Anton is a director. Includes 199,451 shares of common stock held as custodian for the benefit of Dr. D Anton s children. Also includes 21,930 shares underlying warrants and 27,606 vested stock options held directly by Dr. D Anton.
- (6) **Dicks.** Congressman Dicks is a director. Represents vested stock options.

- (7) **Jenson.** Mr. Jenson is a director. Includes 21,930 shares underlying warrants and 55,384 vested stock options.
- (8) **Kaplan.** Mr. Kaplan is a director. Includes 45,662 vested stock options.
- (9) **MacLean.** Mr. Maclean is a director. 1. Includes (i) 8,166 shares held jointly with spouse, (ii) 95,833 shares held by Starfish Partners LLC which Mr. MacLean indirectly controls, (iii) 250,000 shares held by Taurus Capital Partners LLC of which Mr. MacLean is the Managing Member, (iv) 18,938 shares held as custodian for the benefit of Mr. MacLean's children, (v) 136,611 shares held in the name of his IRA, (vi) 27,083 shares held in trust, (vii) 7,333 shares held in spouse's IRA, (viii) 86,512 shares held in Mr. MacLean's company defined benefit plan, and (ix) 13,889 vested stock options.
- (10) **Rich.** Mr. Rich is a director. Includes 41,495 vested stock options.
- (11) **Scheibelhoffer.** Dr. Scheibelhoffer is a director. Includes 200,681 shares of common stock held as custodian for the benefit of Dr. Scheibelhoffer's children. Also includes 21,930 shares underlying warrants and 27,606 vested stock options held directly by Dr. Scheibelhoffer.
- (12) **Solomon.** Mr. Solomon is a director. Includes 15,001 shares owned by his IRA, 109,649 shares underlying warrants and 39,412 vested stock options.
- (13) **Malysheva.** Ms. Malysheva is a director. Based on a Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on December 11, 2017. This number includes the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by: (i) Ms. Malysheva, Linden Education Partners, LLC, of which Ms. Malysheva is the sole member and manager, and (iii) Educacion Significativa, LLC, of which Linden Education LLC is the sole voting member.
- (14) **Directors and Executive Officers as a group.** This amount includes ownership by executive officers who are not Named Executive Officers under the SEC's disclosure rules.
- (15) **Kinderhook.** The managing member of Kinderhook 2 GP, LLC is Tushar Shah. Address is 2 Executive Drive, Suite 585, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with SEC on February 10, 2017 and subsequent purchase in the Company's private placement offering.
- (16) **Goudy Park.** Based on a Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on November 15, 2017. The managing member of Goudy Park Management, LLC is James W. DeYoung, Jr. Address is 1 N. Franklin Street, Suite 350, Chicago,

IL 60606.

- (17) **Cooperman**. Address is 11431 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33428. Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with SEC on February 4, 2016 and subsequent issuance of warrants to Mr. Cooperman.
- (18) **Alvin Fund LLC**. Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 11, 2018. Alvin Fund LLC is an investment company located at 215 West 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt 10A, New York, NY 10025. Alvin Fund LLC's manager is George Melas-Kyriazi.

**Summary Compensation Table for the 2017 Fiscal Year**

<b>Name and Principal Position (a)</b>	<b>Fiscal Year (b)</b>	<b>Salary (\$) (c)</b>	<b>Bonus (\$) (d)(1)</b>	<b>Option Awards (\$) (f)(2)</b>	<b>Total (\$) (j)</b>
Michael Mathews (3) Chief Executive Officer	2017	287,496	60,000	88,266	435,762
	2016	200,000		90,000	290,000
Cheri St. Arnauld (4) Chief Academic Officer	2017	247,000	30,000	35,000	312,000
	2016	240,000		60,000	300,000
Gerard Wendolowski (5) Chief Operating Officer	2017	240,333	30,000	103,204	373,537
	2016	200,000		42,000	242,000

(1)

**Bonuses.** Represents cash bonuses.



(2)

**Option Awards.** These amounts do not reflect the actual economic value realized by the Named Executive Officers. The amounts in this column represent the fair value of the award as of the grant date as computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 and the SEC disclosure rules. Pursuant to SEC rules, the amounts shown disregard the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions.

(3)

**Mathews.** The amount under Option Awards represents 346,299 stock options of which expiration dates were extended and exercise prices re-priced in September 2016.

(4)

**St. Arnauld.** The amount under Option Awards represents 58,334 five-year stock options granted to Dr. St. Arnauld. These options are exercisable at \$1.99 per share and vest in three equal increments on June 23, 2017, June 23, 2018, and June 23, 2019, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(5)

**Wendolowski.** The amount under Option Awards represents 166,667 five-year stock options granted to Mr. Wendolowski. These options are exercisable at \$1.99 per share and vest in three equal increments on June 23, 2017, June 23, 2018, and June 23, 2019, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date. Option Awards also includes 12,501 stock options of which expiration dates were extended and exercise prices re-priced in September 2016.

### **Named Executive Officer Employment Agreements**

**Michael Mathews.** From May 16, 2013 until September 2015, Michael Mathews had an Employment Agreement whereby Mr. Mathews was paid an annual base salary of \$100,000 until it was increased to \$250,000 in September 2015.

Effective November 1, 2016, Aspen entered into a three-year Employment Agreement with Mr. Mathews replacing his prior Employment Agreement which expired May 16, 2016. In accordance with this new Employment Agreement, Mr. Mathews receives an annual base salary of \$325,000.

**Cheri St. Arnauld.** From March 1, 2014 until March 1, 2017, Dr. St. Arnauld had an Employment Agreement whereby Dr. St. Arnauld was paid a base salary of \$120,000 on an annualized basis for the first six months of the Employment Agreement and after this six month period she began receiving an annual base salary of \$240,000 which was thereafter increased to \$264,000 on January 1, 2017 and thereafter to \$300,000 on June 11, 2017.

**Gerard Wendolowski.** Effective November 11, 2014, Aspen and Mr. Wendolowski entered into a three-year Employment Agreement. Under the Employment Agreement, Mr. Wendolowski received an annual base salary of \$200,000. Effective July 1, 2016, Aspen increased Mr. Wendolowski's annual base salary from \$200,000 to \$240,000 which was thereafter increased to \$264,000 on January 1, 2017 and thereafter to \$300,000 on June 11, 2017.

### **Bonuses**

For each fiscal year during the term of the Named Executive Officers' Employment Agreements beginning May 1st and ending April 30th of the applicable fiscal year, the Named Executive Officers shall have the opportunity to earn a bonus up to 30%, 66% or 100% of his or her then base salary (the "Target Bonus") as follows:

When the Company achieves annual Adjusted EBITDA (as defined in their Employment Agreements) at certain threshold levels (each, an "EBITDA Threshold"), the Named Executive Officers shall receive an automatic cash bonus (the "Automatic Cash Bonus") equal to a percentage of his or her then base salary, and shall receive a grant of fully vested shares of the Company's common stock having an aggregate Fair Market Value (as such term is defined in the Plan) equal to a percentage of the Named Executive Officer's then base salary (the "Automatic Equity Bonus"). In addition, the Named Executive Officers shall be eligible to receive an additional percentage of his then Base Salary as a cash bonus (the "Discretionary Cash Bonus") and an additional grant of fully vested shares of the Company's common stock having an aggregate Fair Market Value equal to a percentage of the Named Executive Officers' then base salary (the "Discretionary Equity Bonus") based on the Board's determination that the Named Executive Officer has achieved certain annual performance objectives established at the beginning of each fiscal year. There were no performance objectives set for 2016 or 2017.

The EBITDA Thresholds and corresponding bonus levels are set forth in the table below. For the avoidance of doubt, the Named Executive Officer shall only be eligible to receive the bonuses associated with a single EBITDA Threshold; i.e. in the event the Company attains EBITDA Threshold (2), only the bonuses associated with EBITDA Threshold (2) below (and not the bonuses associated with EBITDA Threshold (1)) shall be applicable.

<b>EBITDA Threshold</b>	<b>Automatic Cash Bonus</b>	<b>Automatic Equity Bonus</b>	<b>Discretionary Cash Bonus</b>	<b>Discretionary Equity Bonus</b>
\$1,000,000	7.5%	7.5%	Up to 7.5%	Up to 7.5%
-\$1,999,999				
\$2,000,000	16.5%	16.5%	Up to 16.5%	Up to 16.5%
-\$3,999,999				
\$4,000,000 and over	25%	25%	Up to 25%	Up to 25%

Provided, however, that the earning of the Automatic Cash Bonus is subject to the Company having at least \$2,000,000 in available cash after deducting the Target Bonuses paid to all executive officers of the Company or its subsidiaries under the same Target Bonus formula pursuant to such executives' employment agreements (the Cash Threshold) and the executive officer continuing to provide services under their Employment Agreement on the applicable Target Bonus determination date. If the Company is unable to pay the Automatic Cash Bonus as a result of not meeting the Cash Threshold, no Automatic Cash Bonus will be earned for that fiscal year.

Under Mr. Mathews' Employment Agreement, the Automatic Cash Bonus is structured to exclude borrowings under the Company's credit facility which are designed to meet the minimum cash requirement.

Each of the Named Executive Officers is entitled to receive discretionary bonuses under their Employment Agreements at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. In fiscal 2017, the Named Executive Officers were each paid discretionary cash bonuses as disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table above.

### **Termination Provisions**

Under their Employment Agreements, the Named Executive Officers are entitled to severance payments. All of the termination provisions are intended to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, (the Code), and the Regulations thereunder.

In the event of dismissal without cause or resignation for Good Reason:

Mr. Mathews will receive 12 months base salary, immediate vesting of unvested equity and continued benefits;

Dr. St. Arnauld will receive six months base salary; and

Mr. Wendolowski will receive six months base salary.

Immediately upon a change of control event:

Mr. Mathews will receive 18 months base salary, immediate vesting of unvested equity, continued benefits and 100% of the existing Target Bonus, if any, for that fiscal when the change of control occurs.

Dr. St. Arnauld and Mr. Wendolowski will each receive three months base salary.

In the event Mr. Mathews' Employment Agreement is terminated at the end of a term and he remains employed until the end of the Term, Mr. Mathews will be entitled to receive six months base salary.

Change of control is defined in their Employment Agreements similar to the manner that change of control is defined under 409A of the Code. Generally, Good Reason is defined as a material diminution in the executives' authority, duties or responsibilities due to no fault of his own (unless he has agreed to such diminution); or (ii) any other action or inaction that constitutes a material breach by Aspen under the Employment Agreement; or (iii) generally a relocation of the principal place of employment to a location outside of New York or Scottsdale for Dr. St. Arnauld.

### **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

See proposal 2 for a description of the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan.



**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2017**

Listed below is information with respect to unexercised options that have not vested, and equity incentive plan awards for each Named Executive Officer outstanding as of April 30, 2017:

**Outstanding Equity Awards for the 2017 Fiscal Year**

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Payout			
						Number of Shares or Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested	Number of Shares or Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Michael Mathews		1,934(1)		2.28	2/13/18				
		25,000(2)		2.52	3/15/20				
		41,667(3)		2.52	3/15/20				
		241,667(4)		2.52	12/31/20				
		24,076(5)		2.52	10/23/20				
		13,889(5)		2.52	10/23/20				
	108,333	54,167		2.28	9/4/19				
41,667	83,333(6)		2.10	12/11/20					
Cheri St. Arnauld	41,667			2.28	3/1/19				
	27,777	55,556(7)		2.03	6/8/20				

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	58,334	1.992	6/23/21
Gerard Wendolowski	8,334(8)	2.52	3/15/20
	4,167(9)	2.52	3/15/20
	12,500(1)	2.28	2/28/18
	41,667	2.28	3/1/19
	19,445	2.0292	6/8/20
	38,889(10)	1.99	6/23/21
	166,667(11)		

(1)

Exercised prior to expiration.

(2)

Vests in three equal increments on March 15, 2018, March 15, 2019 and March 15, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(3)

Vests in three equal increments on March 22, 2018, March 22, 2019 and March 22, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(4)

Vests in three equal increments on December 31, 2018, December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(5)

Vests in three equal increments on October 23, 2018, October 23, 2019 and October 23, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(6)

Two-thirds vested; the balance will vest on December 11, 2018, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.





(7)

One third vested; the balance will vest on June 8, 2018, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(8)

Vests in three equal increments on March 15, 2018, March 15, 2019 and March 15, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(9)

Vests in three equal increments on March 15, 2018, March 15, 2019 and March 15, 2020, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(10)

One third vested; the balance will vest on June 8, 2018, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

(11)

One third vested; the balance will vest in equal increments on June 23, 2018 and June 23, 2019, subject to continued employment on each applicable vesting date.

### **Director Compensation**

We do not pay cash compensation to our directors for service on our Board and our employees do not receive compensation for serving as members of our Board. Directors are reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings and carrying out duties as board and committee members. Under the Plan, our non-employee directors receive grants of stock options as compensation for their services on our Board, as described above. Because we do not pay compensation to employee directors, Mr. Michael Mathews was not compensated for his service as a director and is omitted from the following table.

**Director Compensation for the 2017 Fiscal Year**

<b>Name</b> <b>(a)</b>	<b>Option</b>	
	<b>Awards</b> <b>(d)(1)</b> <b>(\$)</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>(j)</b> <b>(\$)</b>
Michael D Anton (2)(4)	23,379	23,379
Norman D. Dicks (3)	40,000	40,000
C. James Jensen (2)(4)	43,136	43,136
Andrew Kaplan (2)(4)	33,333	33,333
Malcolm F. MacLean IV (3)	40,000	40,000
Sanford Rich (2)(4)	36,936	36,936
John Scheibelhoffer (2)(4)	28,236	28,236
Rick Solomon (2)(4)	35,400	35,400
Paul Schneier (2)(5)	9,636	9,636
David Pasi (2)(5)	7,500	7,500

(1)

Amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of awards without regards to forfeitures granted to the independent members of our Board during fiscal 2017, computed in accordance with ASC 718. This amount does not reflect the actual economic value realized by the director.

(2)

On May 19, 2016, the specified director received a grant of 12,500 five-year stock options (exercisable at \$1.92 per share) which vest over a three year period in equal increments (with the first vesting date being May 19, 2017), subject to continued service on the Board.



(3)

On November 29, 2016, the specified director received a grant of 41,667 five-year stock options (exercisable at \$3.24 per share) which vest over a three year period in equal increments (with the first vesting date being November 29, 2017), subject to continued service on the Board.

(4)

On April 14, 2017, the specified director received a grant of five-year stock options (exercisable at \$4.32 per share) which vest on April 14, 2018, subject to continued service on the Board and, if applicable, as a Board committee member.

(5)

Resigned during fiscal year 2017.

### **Legal proceedings**

From time to time, we may be involved in litigation relating to claims arising out of our operations in the normal course of business. As of the filing of this proxy, we are not aware of any other pending or threatened lawsuits in which any of our directors, officers or affiliates, or any registered or beneficial shareholder, is an adverse party or has a material interest adverse to our interest.

**PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE SHARES ISSUABLE UNDER THE 2012 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

Our Board has adopted a resolution declaring it advisable and in the best interests of Aspen and its shareholders that prior increases in the number of shares authorized under the Plan, and the awards granted under those share increases, be ratified and approved by shareholders. On July 24, 2017, Aspen's Board approved of increasing the number of shares issuable under the Plan to 3,500,000.

The Plan is a broad-based plan in which all employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors of Aspen and its subsidiaries are eligible to participate. The purpose of the Plan is to further the growth and development of Aspen by providing, through ownership of stock of Aspen and other equity-based awards, an incentive to its officers and other key employees and consultants who are in a position to contribute materially to the prosperity of Aspen, to increase such persons' interests in Aspen's welfare, by encouraging them to continue their services to Aspen, and by enabling Aspen to attract individuals of outstanding ability to become employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors of Aspen.

Our shareholders have previously approved and ratified adoption of the Plan, as described further below. Nasdaq requires that all companies with a security listed on the exchange obtain shareholder approval of all equity compensation plans and arrangements, including any increases in the authorized shares under previously approved equity incentive plans and previously granted equity awards made possible by those increases.

In the following paragraphs we provide a summary of the terms of the Plan. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the Plan which is attached at Annex A to this Proxy Statement.

**Background**

In March 2012, we established the Plan. Initially, we were authorized to issue up to 208,334 stock rights, which has been increased by our Board from time to time. As of the record date, there were 3,500,000 stock rights authorized under the Plan. In September 2014, our shareholders ratified and approved the adoption of the Plan and amendments to the Plan to increase the authorized shares to 1,358,334. In June 2016, our Board increased the number of authorized shares under the Plan to 2,108,334 shares. All numbers have been adjusted to give effect to the Company's reverse stock split effective on January 10, 2017.

**Administration**

The Plan may be administered by the entire Board or by the Compensation Committee (if delegated by our Board), which we refer to as the Administrator . The Board may delegate the powers to grant stock rights to the extent permitted by the laws of the Company s state of incorporation.

**Eligibility**

Awards granted under the Plan may be restricted stock, restricted stock units, options and SARs which are awarded to employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors, who, in the opinion of the Administrator, have contributed, or are expected to contribute, materially to our success. In addition, incentive stock options ( ISOs ) as defined in the Code, may be granted to individuals who are officers or other employees and contribute to our success. The identification of individuals entitled to receive awards, the terms of the awards, and the number of shares subject to individual awards, are determined by the Administrator, in its sole discretion.

**Limitation on Awards**

The exercise price of options or SARs granted under the Plan shall not be less than the fair market value of the underlying common stock at the time of grant. In the case of ISOs, the exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value in the case of 10% shareholders. ISOs shall expire no later than five years after the date of grant. The option price may be paid by check or wire transfer or, at the discretion of the Administrator, by delivery of shares of our common stock having fair market value equal as of the date of exercise to the cash exercise price, or a combination thereof.

### **Stock Options**

Although this proxy Statement discusses both ISOs and Non-Qualified Stock Options, all options granted to date under the Plan have been Non-Qualified, and the Company does not expect it will grant ISOs in the foreseeable future. The Administrator may grant either non-qualified stock options or ISOs. A stock option entitles the recipient to purchase a specified number of shares of common stock at a fixed price subject to terms and conditions set by the Committee, including conditions for exercise that must be satisfied, which typically will be based solely on continued provision of services. The purchase price of shares of common stock covered by a stock option cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date the option is granted. Fair market value of the common stock is generally equal to the closing price for the common stock on the on the trading date before the option is granted.

### **Stock Appreciation Rights**

A SAR entitles the holder to receive, as designated by the Administrator, cash or shares of common stock, value equal to the excess of the fair market value of a specified number of shares of common stock at the time of exercise over the exercise price established by the Administrator.

The exercise price of each SAR granted under the Plan shall be established by the Administrator or shall be determined by method established by the Administrator at the time the SAR is granted, provided the exercise price shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of the grant of the SAR, or such higher price as is established by the Administrator. Shares of common stock delivered pursuant to the exercise of a SAR shall be subject to such conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Administrator may establish in the applicable SAR agreement or document, if any.

### **Restricted Stock Awards**

A restricted stock award gives the recipient a stock award subject to restriction on sale. The Administrator determines the terms and conditions of restricted stock awards, including the number of shares of restricted stock granted, and conditions for vesting that must be satisfied, which may be based principally or solely on continued provision of services, and also may include a performance-based component. Unless otherwise provided in the award agreement, the holder of a restricted stock award generally will have the rights of a shareholder from the date of grant of the award, including the right to vote the shares of common stock and the right to receive cash dividends and share and property distributions on the shares.

### **Restricted Stock Units**

A restricted stock unit gives the recipient the right to receive a number of shares of our common stock on the applicable vesting or other dates. Delivery of the restricted stock unit may be deferred beyond vesting as determined by the Administrator. The Administrator determines the terms and conditions of restricted stock units, including the number of units granted, and conditions for vesting that must be satisfied, which may be based principally or solely on continued provision of services, and also may include a performance-based component. The holder of a restricted stock unit award will not have voting rights with respect to the award and possess no incidents of ownership with respect to the underlying common stock.

### **Term, Termination and Amendment**

The Board may terminate the Plan at any time. Unless sooner terminated, the Plan shall terminate in March 2022. No award may be granted under the Plan once it is terminated. Termination of the Plan shall not impair rights or obligations under any award granted while the Plan is in effect, except with the written consent of the grantee. The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the Plan. Provided, however, no amendment shall be affected unless approved by our shareholders to the extent that shareholder approval is necessary to satisfy the requirements of Section 422 of the Code or required by the rules of the principal national securities exchange or trading market upon which our common stock trades.

The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the terms of any one or more awards; provided, however, that the rights under the award shall not be impaired by any such amendment, except with the written consent of the grantee.

The number of shares with respect to which options or stock awards may be granted under the Plan, the number of shares covered by each outstanding option or SAR, and the purchase price per share shall be adjusted for any increase or decrease in the number of issued shares resulting from a recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, exchange of shares, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other subdivision or consolidation of shares.



### **Forfeiture**

All vested or unvested stock rights are immediately forfeited at the option of the Board in the event that the recipient performs certain acts against the interests of Aspen including termination as a result of fraud, dishonesty or violation of Aspen policy.

### **Adjustments upon Changes in Capitalization**

The number of shares of common stock covered by each outstanding stock right, and the number of shares of common stock which have been authorized for issuance under the Plan as well as the price per share of common stock (or cash, as applicable) covered by each such outstanding option or SAR, shall be proportionately adjusted for any increases or decrease in the number of issued shares of common stock resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification, or any other increase or decrease in the number of issued shares of common stock effected without receipt of consideration by the Company. Such adjustment shall be made by the Administrator.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following is a brief summary of the principal United States federal income tax consequences with respect to awards granted under the Plan.

#### ***Restricted Stock Awards***

The recipient of a restricted stock award does not have taxable income upon receipt of the award. When the restricted stock award is vested, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference of the fair market value of the shares on the date of vesting and the amount paid for such restricted stock, if any.

Upon the vesting of a restricted stock award, Aspen will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the restricted stock award vested.

The recipient may, however, elect under Section 83(b) of the Code to include as ordinary income in the year the shares are granted an amount equal to the excess of (i) the fair market value of the shares on the date of issuance, over (ii) the purchase price, if any, paid for the shares. If the Section 83(b) election is made, the recipient will not realize any additional taxable income when the shares become vested.

### *Incentive Stock Options*

The recipient does not recognize any taxable income as a result of the grant or exercise of an ISO qualifying under Section 422 of the Code. However, the exercise of an ISO may increase the recipient's alternative minimum tax liability.

If a recipient holds stock acquired through the exercise of an ISO for more than two years from the date on which the stock option was granted and more than one year after the date the stock option was exercised, any gain or loss on a disposition of those shares, or a qualifying disposition, will be a long-term capital gain or loss. Upon such a qualifying disposition, Aspen will not be entitled to any income tax deduction.

Generally, if the recipient disposes of the stock before the expiration of either of those holding periods, or a disqualifying disposition, then at the time of such disqualifying disposition the recipient will recognize ordinary income equal to the lesser of (i) the excess of the stock's fair market value on the date of exercise over the exercise price, or (ii) the recipient's actual gain, if any, on the purchase and sale. Any additional gain recognized by the recipient upon the disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on whether the stock was held for more than one year.

To the extent the recipient recognizes ordinary income by reason of a disqualifying disposition, generally we will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the disqualifying disposition occurs.

### *Non-Qualified Stock Options*

The recipient does not recognize any taxable income as a result of a grant of a non-qualified stock option. Upon exercise of a non-qualified stock option, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the exercise price. When the shares are sold, any difference between the sale price and the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise will generally be treated as long term or short term capital gain or loss, depending on whether the stock was held for more than one year.

Upon the exercise of a non-qualified stock option, Aspen will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the option was exercised.

### *Stock Appreciation Rights*

A recipient does not recognize any taxable income upon the receipt of an SAR. Upon the exercise of an SAR, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the underlying shares of common stock on the exercise date over the exercise price.

Upon the exercise of an SAR, Aspen will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the SAR was exercised.

### **Transfer**

Except for ISOs, all stock rights are transferable subject to compliance with the securities laws and the Plan. ISOs are only transferable by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

### **New Plan Benefits**

Because future grants of awards under the Plan are subject to the discretion of the Board and the Committee, the future awards that may be granted to participants cannot be determined at this time. There are no grants that have been previously made which are contingent upon receiving shareholder approval of the grant.

**The Board recommends a vote For this proposal.**

**PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF THE SHARES ISSUED AND ISSUABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION OF UNITED STATES UNIVERSITY**

Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5635(d) provides that shareholder approval is required prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction other than a public offering involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the Company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable common stock) equal to 20% or more of the common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance for less than the greater of book or market value of the stock. The purpose of this proposal is to obtain shareholder ratification for the shares of common issued and issuable in connection with the acquisition of United States University on December 1, 2017 (the "USU Transaction") under applicable Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5635(d).

In connection with the USU Transaction, the Company issued 1,203,209 shares of the Company's common stock, and an eight percent \$2,000,000 convertible note (collectively, the "USU Securities"). The issuance of the USU Securities did not rise to an issuance of the Company's securities triggering the 20% limit under Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5635(d). However, the Company wants to ensure that the USU Securities are not deemed to be aggregated with any other future issuances which would limit the amount of securities the Company may issue under Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 5635(d). As such, the Company is soliciting shareholder ratification of the issuance of the USU Securities in order to ensure that the Company can issue additional common stock or common stock equivalents in the future without prior shareholder approval up to the 20% limit.

The convertible note converts in equal segments of \$1,000,000 on December 1, 2019 and 2020, respectively. If the holder elects to convert the note each time rather than receive cash, the conversion price is the greater of (i) the average price per share for Aspen's Common Stock on Nasdaq for the 10 trading day period ending as of the last trading day immediately prior to each payment date or (ii) \$2.00 per share. Thus, the maximum number of shares including accrued interest is 1,120,000.

**The Board recommends a vote For this proposal.**

**PROPOSAL 4. TO APPROVE ASPEN S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

**Overview**

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act and recent legislation, we are asking our shareholders to vote to approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, commonly referred to as the "say-on-pay" vote. In accordance with the Exchange Act requirements, we are providing our shareholders with an opportunity to express their views on our Named Executive Officers' compensation. Although this advisory vote is nonbinding, our Board and the Compensation Committee will review and consider the voting results when making future decisions regarding our Named Executive Officer compensation and related executive compensation programs.

We encourage shareholders to read the "Executive Compensation" section in this Proxy Statement, including the compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure, which describes the structure and amounts of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. The compensation of our Named Executive Officers is designed to enable us to attract and retain talented and experienced executives to lead us successfully in a competitive environment. The Committee and our Board believe that our executive compensation strikes the appropriate balance between utilizing responsible, measured pay practices and effectively incentivizing our Named Executive Officers to dedicate themselves fully to value creation for our shareholders.

**Accordingly, we ask our shareholders to vote FOR the following resolution at the Annual Meeting:**

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to Aspen's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the compensation tables and narrative discussion is hereby APPROVED.

**The Board recommends a vote For this proposal.**



**PROPOSAL 5. RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

Our Board has appointed Salberg & Company, PA, or Salberg, to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2018. Salberg has been Aspen's independent registered public accounting firm since 2012. Selection of Aspen's independent registered public accounting firm is not required to be submitted to a vote of the shareholders of Aspen for ratification. However, Aspen is submitting this matter to the shareholders as a matter of good corporate governance. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Board may, in its discretion, appoint a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of Aspen and its shareholders. If the appointment is not ratified, the Board will consider its options.

A representative of Salberg is not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting.

**The Board recommends a vote For this proposal.**

The Audit Committee, which currently consists of Sanford Rich, Chairman, C. James Jensen, and Rick Solomon, reviews Aspen's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board and administers our engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of its examinations, the evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls.

The Audit Committee has met and held discussions with management and Salberg. Management represented to the Audit Committee that our financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the financial statements with management and Salberg. The Audit Committee reviewed with Salberg its judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of our accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States.

**Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee has:



-  
reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management;

-  
met privately with the independent registered public accounting firm and discussed matters required by Statement on Auditing Standard No. 16, Communications with Audit Committees, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which we refer to as the PCAOB ;

-  
received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm, as required by the applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed its independence with Aspen; and

-  
in reliance on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2017 filed with the SEC.

This report is submitted by the Audit Committee.

Sanford Rich, Chairman

C. James Jensen

Rick Solomon

The above Audit Committee Report is not deemed to be soliciting material, is not filed with the SEC and is not to be incorporated by reference in any filings that Aspen files with the SEC.



It is not the duty of the Audit Committee to determine that Aspen's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or to plan or conduct audits. Those are the responsibilities of management and Aspen's independent registered public accounting firm. In giving its recommendation to the Board, the Audit Committee has relied on: (1) management's representations that such financial statements have been prepared with integrity and objectivity and in conformity with GAAP; and (2) the report of Aspen independent registered public accounting firm with respect to such financial statements.

### **Audit Committee's Pre-Approval Policy**

The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services on a case-by-case basis. In its review of non-audit services, the Audit Committee considers whether the engagement could compromise the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm, and whether the reasons of efficiency or convenience is in our best interest to engage our independent registered public accounting firm to perform the services.

### **Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

All of the services provided and fees charged by Salberg & Company, P.A., our principal accountant, were approved by our Audit Committee. The following table shows the fees paid to Salberg for the fiscal years ended April 30, 2017 and 2016.

All of the services provided and fees charged by Salberg & Company, P.A., our principal accountant, were approved by our Audit Committee. The following table shows the fees paid to Salberg for the fiscal years ended April 30, 2017 and 2016.

	<b>Year Ended</b>	<b>Year Ended</b>
	<b>April 30,</b>	<b>April 30,</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	(\$)	(\$)
Audit Fees (1)	97,000	83,000
Audit Related Fees (2)	15,000	5,000
Tax Fees	0	0
All Other Fees	0	0

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Total	112,000	88,000
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- (1) Audit fees these fees relate to services rendered for the audits of our annual consolidated financial statements, for the review of our quarterly financial statements, and for services that are normally provided by the auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements including filings with the Department of Education.
- (2) Audit related fees these fees relate to audit related consulting.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Aspen has no knowledge of any other matters that may come before the Annual Meeting and does not intend to present any other matters. However, if any other matters shall properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment, the persons soliciting proxies will have the discretion to vote as they see fit unless directed otherwise.

If you do not plan to attend the Annual Meeting, in order that your shares may be represented and in order to assure the required quorum, please sign, date and return your proxy promptly. In the event you are able to attend the Annual Meeting, at your request, Aspen will cancel your previously submitted proxy.

**ASPEN GROUP, INC.**

**2012 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN, As Amended**

1. Scope of Plan; Definitions.

(a) This 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (the **Plan**) is intended to advance the interests of Aspen Group, Inc. (the **Company**) and its Related Corporations by enhancing the ability of the Company to attract and retain qualified employees, consultants, Officers and directors, by creating incentives and rewards for their contributions to the success of the Company and its Related Corporations. This Plan will provide to (a) Officers and other employees of the Company and its Related Corporations opportunities to purchase common stock (**Common Stock**) of the Company pursuant to Options granted hereunder which qualify as incentive stock options (**ISOs**) under Section 422(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the **Code**), (b) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to purchase Common Stock in the Company pursuant to options granted hereunder which do not qualify as ISOs (**Non-Qualified Options**); (c) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company which normally are subject to restrictions on sale (**Restricted Stock**); (d) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive grants of stock appreciation rights (**SARs**); and (e) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive grants of restricted stock units (**RSUs**). ISOs, Non-Discretionary Options and Non-Qualified Options are referred to hereafter as **Options**. Options, Restricted Stock, RSUs and SARs are sometimes referred to hereafter collectively as **Stock Rights**. Any of the Options and/or Stock Rights may in the Compensation Committee's discretion be issued in tandem to one or more other Options and/or Stock Rights to the extent permitted by law.

(b) For purposes of the Plan, capitalized words and terms shall have the following meaning:

**Board** means the board of directors of the Company.

**Bulletin Board** shall mean the Over-the-Counter Bulletin Board.

**Chairman** means the chairman of the Board.

**Change of Control** means the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) the consummation of the sale or disposition by the Company of all or substantially all of the Company's assets in a transaction which requires shareholder approval under applicable state law; or (ii) the consummation of a merger or consolidation of the Company with any other corporation, other than a merger or consolidation which would result in the voting securities of the Company outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving entity or its parent) at least 50% of the total voting power represented by the voting securities of the Company or such surviving entity or its parent outstanding immediately after such merger or consolidation.

**Code** shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

**Common Stock** shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

**Company** shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

**Compensation Committee** means the compensation committee of the Board, if any, which shall consist of two or more members of the Board, each of whom shall be both an outside director within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code and a non-employee director within the meaning of Rule 16b-3. All references in this Plan to the Compensation Committee shall mean the Board when (i) there is no Compensation Committee or (ii) the Board has retained the power to administer this Plan.

**Disability** means permanent and total disability as defined in Section 22(e)(3) of the Code or successor statute.

**Disqualifying Disposition** means any disposition (including any sale) of Common Stock underlying an ISO before the later of (i) two years after the date of employee was granted the ISO or (ii) one year after the date the employee acquired Common Stock by exercising the ISO.

Exchange Act shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Fair Market Value shall be determined as of the last Trading Day before the date a Stock Right is granted and shall mean:

(1) the closing price on the principal market if the Common Stock is listed on a national securities exchange or the Bulletin Board.

(2) if the Company's shares are not listed on a national securities exchange or the Bulletin Board, then the closing price if reported or the average bid and asked price for the Company's shares as published by Pink Sheets LLC;

(3) if there are no prices available under clauses (1) or (2), then Fair Market Value shall be based upon the average closing bid and asked price as determined following a polling of all dealers making a market in the Company's Common Stock; or

(4) if there is no regularly established trading market for the Company's Common Stock or if the Company's Common Stock is listed, quoted or reported under clauses (1) or (2) but it trades sporadically rather than every day, the Fair Market Value shall be established by the Board or the Compensation Committee taking into consideration all relevant factors including the most recent price at which the Company's Common Stock was sold.

ISO shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Non-Discretionary Options shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Non-Qualified Options shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Officers means a person who is an executive officer of the Company and is required to file ownership reports under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.



Options shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Plan shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Related Corporations shall mean a corporation which is a subsidiary corporation with respect to the Company within the meaning of Section 425(f) of the Code.

Restricted Stock shall have the meaning contained in Section 1(a).

RSU shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

SAR shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Securities Act means the Securities Act of 1933.

Stock Rights shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1(a).

Trading Day shall mean a day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for business.

This Plan is intended to comply in all respects with Rule 16b-3 ( Rule 16b-3 ) and its successor rules as promulgated under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ) for participants who are subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act. To the extent any provision of the Plan or action by the Plan administrators fails to so comply, it shall be deemed null and void to the extent permitted by law and deemed advisable by the Plan administrators. Provided, however, such exercise of discretion by the Plan administrators shall not interfere with the contract rights of any grantee. In the event that any interpretation or construction of the Plan is required, it shall be interpreted and construed in order to ensure, to the maximum extent permissible by law, that such grantee does not violate the short-swing profit provisions of Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act and that any exemption available under Rule 16b-3 or other rule is available.

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2. Administration of the Plan.

(a) The Plan may be administered by the entire Board or by the Compensation Committee. Once appointed, the Compensation Committee shall continue to serve until otherwise directed by the Board. A majority of the members of the Compensation Committee shall constitute a quorum, and all determinations of the Compensation Committee shall be made by the majority of its members present at a meeting. Any determination of the Compensation Committee under the Plan may be made without notice or meeting of the Compensation Committee by a writing signed by all of the Compensation Committee members. Subject to ratification of the grant of each Stock Right by the Board (but only if so required by applicable state law), and subject to the terms of the Plan, the Compensation Committee shall have the authority to (i) determine the employees of the Company and Related Corporations (from among the class of employees eligible under Section 3 to receive ISOs) to whom ISOs may be granted, and to determine (from among the class of individuals and entities eligible under Section 3 to receive Non-Qualified Options, Restricted Stock, RSUs and SARs) to whom Non-Qualified Options, Restricted Stock, RSUs and SARs may be granted; (ii) determine when Stock Rights may be granted; (iii) determine the exercise prices of Stock Rights other than Restricted Stock and RSUs, which shall not be less than the Fair Market Value; (iv) determine whether each Option granted shall be an ISO or a Non-Qualified Option; (v) determine when Stock Rights shall become exercisable, the duration of the exercise period and when each Stock Right shall vest; (vi) determine whether restrictions such as repurchase options are to be imposed on shares subject to or issued in connection with Stock Rights, and the nature of such restrictions, if any, and (vii) interpret the Plan and promulgate and rescind rules and regulations relating to it. The interpretation and construction by the Compensation Committee of any provisions of the Plan or of any Stock Right granted under it shall be final, binding and conclusive unless otherwise determined by the Board. The Compensation Committee may from time to time adopt such rules and regulations for carrying out the Plan as it may deem best.

No members of the Compensation Committee or the Board shall be liable for any action or determination made in good faith with respect to the Plan or any Stock Right granted under it. No member of the Compensation Committee or the Board shall be liable for any act or omission of any other member of the Compensation Committee or the Board or for any act or omission on his own part, including but not limited to the exercise of any power and discretion given to him under the Plan, except those resulting from his own gross negligence or willful misconduct.

(b) The Compensation Committee may select one of its members as its chairman and shall hold meetings at such time and places as it may determine. All references in this Plan to the Compensation Committee shall mean the Board if no Compensation Committee has been appointed. From time to time the Board may increase the size of the Compensation Committee and appoint additional members thereof, remove members (with or without cause) and appoint new members in substitution therefor, fill vacancies however caused or remove all members of the Compensation Committee and thereafter directly administer the Plan.

(c) Stock Rights may be granted to members of the Board, whether such grants are in their capacity as directors, Officers or consultants. All grants of Stock Rights to members of the Board shall in all other respects be made in accordance with the provisions of this Plan applicable to other eligible persons. Members of the Board who are either

(i) eligible for Stock Rights pursuant to the Plan or (ii) have been granted Stock Rights may vote on any matters affecting the administration of the Plan or the grant of any Stock Rights pursuant to the Plan.

(d) In addition to such other rights of indemnification as he may have as a member of the Board, and with respect to administration of the Plan and the granting of Stock Rights under it, each member of the Board and of the Compensation Committee shall be entitled without further act on his part to indemnification from the Company for all expenses (including advances of litigation expenses, the amount of judgment and the amount of approved settlements made with a view to the curtailment of costs of litigation) reasonably incurred by him in connection with or arising out of any action, suit or proceeding, including any appeal thereof, with respect to the administration of the Plan or the granting of Stock Rights under it in which he may be involved by reason of his being or having been a member of the Board or the Compensation Committee, whether or not he continues to be such member of the Board or the Compensation Committee at the time of the incurring of such expenses; provided, however, that such indemnity shall be subject to the limitations contained in any Indemnification Agreement between the Company and the Board member or Officer. The foregoing right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors or administrators of each such member of the Board or the Compensation Committee and shall be in addition to all other rights to which such member of the Board or the Compensation Committee would be entitled to as a matter of law, contract or otherwise.

(e) The Board may delegate the powers to grant Stock Rights to Officers to the extent permitted by the laws of the Company's state of incorporation.

3. Eligible Employees and Others. ISOs may be granted to any employee of the Company or any Related Corporation. Those Officers and directors of the Company who are not employees may not be granted ISOs under the Plan. Subject to compliance with Rule 16b-3 and other applicable securities laws, Non-Qualified Options, Restricted Stock, RSUs and SARs may be granted to any director (whether or not an employee), Officers, employees or consultants of the Company or any Related Corporation. The Compensation Committee may take into consideration a recipient's individual circumstances in determining whether to grant an ISO, a Non-Qualified Option, Restricted Stock, RSUs or a SAR. Granting of any Stock Right to any individual or entity shall neither entitle that individual or entity to, nor disqualify him from participation in, any other grant of Stock Rights.

4. Common Stock. The Common Stock subject to Stock Rights shall be authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.001, or shares of Common Stock reacquired by the Company in any manner, including purchase, forfeiture or otherwise. The aggregate number of shares of Common Stock which may be issued pursuant to the Plan is \_\_\_\_\_, less any Stock Rights previously granted or exercised subject to adjustment as provided in Section 14. Any such shares may be issued under ISOs, Non-Qualified Options, Restricted Stock, RSUs or SARs, so long as the number of shares so issued does not exceed the limitations in this Section. If any Stock Rights granted under the Plan shall expire or terminate for any reason without having been exercised in full or shall cease for any reason to be exercisable in whole or in part, or if the Company shall reacquire any unvested shares, the unpurchased shares subject to such Stock Rights and any unvested shares so reacquired by the Company shall again be available for grants under the Plan.

5. Granting of Stock Rights.

(a) The date of grant of a Stock Right under the Plan will be the date specified by the Board or Compensation Committee at the time it grants the Stock Right; provided, however, that such date shall not be prior to the date on which the Board or Compensation Committee acts to approve the grant. The Board or Compensation Committee shall have the right, with the consent of the optionee, to convert an ISO granted under the Plan to a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 17.

(b) The Board or Compensation Committee shall grant Stock Rights to participants that it, in its sole discretion, selects. Stock Rights shall be granted on such terms as the Board or Compensation Committee shall determine except that ISOs shall be granted on terms that comply with the Code and regulations thereunder.

(c) A SAR entitles the holder to receive, as designated by the Board or Compensation Committee, cash or shares of Common Stock, value equal to (or otherwise based on) the excess of: (a) the Fair Market Value of a specified number of shares of Common Stock at the time of exercise over (b) an exercise price established by the Board or Compensation Committee. The exercise price of each SAR granted under this Plan shall be established by the Compensation Committee or shall be determined by a method established by the Board or Compensation Committee

at the time the SAR is granted, provided the exercise price shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date of the grant of the SAR, or such higher price as is established by the Board or Compensation Committee. A SAR shall be exercisable in accordance with such terms and conditions and during such periods as may be established by the Board or Compensation Committee. Shares of Common Stock delivered pursuant to the exercise of a SAR shall be subject to such conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Board or Compensation Committee may establish in the applicable SAR agreement or document, if any. The Board or Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may impose such conditions, restrictions and contingencies with respect to shares of Common Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of each SAR as the Board or Compensation Committee determines to be desirable. A SAR under the Plan shall be subject to such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board or Compensation Committee shall, in its discretion, prescribe. The terms and conditions of any SAR to any grantee shall be reflected in such form of agreement as is determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. A copy of such document, if any, shall be provided to the grantee, and the Board or Compensation Committee may condition the granting of the SAR on the grantee executing such agreement.

(d) An RSU gives the grantee the right to receive a number of shares of the Company's Common Stock on applicable vesting or other dates. Delivery of the RSUs may be deferred beyond vesting as determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. RSUs shall be evidenced by an RSU agreement in the form determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. With respect to an RSU, which becomes non-forfeitable due to the lapse of time, the Compensation Committee shall prescribe in the RSU agreement the vesting period. With respect to the granting of the RSU, which becomes non-forfeitable due to the satisfaction of certain pre-established performance-based objectives imposed by the Board or Compensation Committee, the measurement date of whether such performance-based objectives have been satisfied shall be a date no earlier than the first anniversary of the date of the RSU. A recipient who is granted an RSU shall possess no incidents of ownership with respect to such underlying Common Stock, although the RSU agreement may provide for payments in lieu of dividends to such grantee.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan, the Board or Compensation Committee may impose conditions and restrictions on any grant of Stock Rights including forfeiture of vested Options, cancellation of Common Stock acquired in connection with any Stock Right and forfeiture of profits.

(f) The Options and SARs shall not be exercisable for a period of more than 10 years from the date of grant.

6. Sale of Shares. The shares underlying Stock Rights granted to any Officers, director or a beneficial owner of 10% or more of the Company's securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act shall not be sold, assigned or transferred by the grantee until at least six months elapse from the date of the grant thereof.

7. ISO Minimum Option Price and Other Limitations.

(a) The exercise price per share relating to all Options granted under the Plan shall not be less than the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the last trading day prior to the date of such grant. For purposes of determining the exercise price, the date of the grant shall be the later of (i) the date of approval by the Board or Compensation Committee or the Board, or (ii) for ISOs, the date the recipient becomes an employee of the Company. In the case of an ISO to be granted to an employee owning Common Stock which represents more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Related Corporation, the price per share shall not be less than 110% of the Fair Market Value per share of Common Stock on the date of grant and such ISO shall not be exercisable after the expiration of five years from the date of grant.

(b) In no event shall the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined at the time an ISO is granted) of Common Stock for which ISOs granted to any employee are exercisable for the first time by such employee during any calendar year (under all stock option plans of the Company and any Related Corporation) exceed \$100,000.

8. Duration of Stock Rights. Subject to earlier termination as provided in Sections 3, 5, 9, 10 and 11, each Option and SAR shall expire on the date specified in the original instrument granting such Stock Right (except with respect to any part of an ISO that is converted into a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 17), provided, however, that such instrument must comply with Section 422 of the Code with regard to ISOs and Rule 16b-3 with regard to all Stock Rights granted pursuant to the Plan to Officers, directors and 10% shareholders of the Company.

9. Exercise of Options and SARs; Vesting of Stock Rights. Subject to the provisions of Sections 3 and 9 through 13, each Option and SAR granted under the Plan shall be exercisable as follows:

(a) The Options and SARs shall either be fully vested and exercisable from the date of grant or shall vest and become exercisable in such installments as the Board or Compensation Committee may specify.

(b) Once an installment becomes exercisable it shall remain exercisable until expiration or termination of the Option and SAR, unless otherwise specified by the Board or Compensation Committee.

(c) Each Option and SAR or installment, once it becomes exercisable, may be exercised at any time or from time to time, in whole or in part, for up to the total number of shares with respect to which it is then exercisable.

(d) The Board or Compensation Committee shall have the right to accelerate the vesting date of any installment of any Stock Right; provided that the Board or Compensation Committee shall not accelerate the exercise date of any installment of any Option granted to any employee as an ISO (and not previously converted into a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 17) if such acceleration would violate the annual exercisability limitation contained in Section 422(d) of the Code as described in Section 7(b).

10. Termination of Employment. Subject to any greater restrictions or limitations as may be imposed by the Board or Compensation Committee or by a written agreement, if an optionee ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations other than by reason of death or Disability, no further installments of his Options shall vest or become exercisable, and his Options shall terminate as provided for in the grant or on the day 12 months after the day of the termination of his employment (except three months for ISOs), whichever is earlier, but in no event later than on their specified expiration dates. Employment shall be considered as continuing uninterrupted during any bona fide leave of absence (such as those attributable to illness, military obligations or governmental service) provided that the period of such leave does not exceed 90 days or, if longer, any period during which such optionee's right to re-employment is guaranteed by statute. A leave of absence with the written approval of the Board shall not be considered an interruption of employment under the Plan, provided that such written approval contractually obligates the Company or any Related Corporation to continue the employment of the optionee after the approved period of absence. ISOs granted under the Plan shall not be affected by any change of employment within or among the Company and Related Corporations so long as the optionee continues to be an employee of the Company or any Related Corporation.



11. Death; Disability. Unless otherwise determined by the Board or Compensation Committee or by a written agreement:

(a) If the holder of an Option or SAR ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations by reason of his death, any Options or SARs held by the optionee may be exercised to the extent he could have exercised it on the date of his death, by his estate, personal representative or beneficiary who has acquired the Options or SARs by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, at any time prior to the earlier of: (i) the Options or SARs specified expiration date or (ii) one year (except three months for an ISO) from the date of death.

(b) If the holder of an Option or SAR ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations, or a director or Director Advisor can no longer perform his duties, by reason of his Disability, any Options or SARs held by the optionee may be exercised to the extent he could have exercised it on the date of termination due to Disability until the earlier of (i) the Options or SARs specified expiration date or (ii) one year from the date of the termination.

12. Assignment, Transfer or Sale.

(a) No ISO granted under this Plan shall be assignable or transferable by the grantee except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and during the lifetime of the grantee, each ISO shall be exercisable only by him, his guardian or legal representative.

(b) Except for ISOs, all Stock Rights are transferable subject to compliance with applicable securities laws and Section 6 of this Plan.

13. Terms and Conditions of Stock Rights. Stock Rights shall be evidenced by instruments (which need not be identical) in such forms as the Board or Compensation Committee may from time to time approve. Such instruments shall conform to the terms and conditions set forth in Sections 5 through 12 hereof and may contain such other provisions as the Board or Compensation Committee deems advisable which are not inconsistent with the Plan. In granting any Stock Rights, the Board or Compensation Committee may specify that Stock Rights shall be subject to the restrictions set forth herein with respect to ISOs, or to such other termination and cancellation provisions as the Board or Compensation Committee may determine. The Board or Compensation Committee may from time to time confer authority and responsibility on one or more of its own members and/or one or more Officers of the Company to execute and deliver such instruments. The proper Officers of the Company are authorized and directed to take any and all action necessary or advisable from time to time to carry out the terms of such instruments.

14. Adjustments Upon Certain Events.

(a) Subject to any required action by the shareholders of the Company, the number of shares of Common Stock covered by each outstanding Stock Right, and the number of shares of Common Stock which have been authorized for issuance under the Plan but as to which no Stock Rights have yet been granted or which have been returned to the Plan upon cancellation or expiration of a Stock Right, as well as the price per share of Common Stock (or cash, as applicable) covered by each such outstanding Option or SAR, shall be proportionately adjusted for any increases or decrease in the number of issued shares of Common Stock resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification of Common Stock, or any other increase or decrease in the number of issued shares of Common Stock effected without receipt of consideration by the Company; provided, however, that conversion of any convertible securities of the Company or the voluntary cancellation whether by virtue of a cashless exercise of a derivative security of the Company or otherwise shall not be deemed to have been effected without receipt of consideration. Such adjustment shall be made by the Board or Compensation Committee, whose determination in that respect shall be final, binding and conclusive. Except as expressly provided herein, no issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or price of shares of Common Stock subject to a Stock Right. No adjustments shall be made for dividends or other distributions paid in cash or in property other than securities of the Company.

(b) In the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, the Board or Compensation Committee shall notify each participant as soon as practicable prior to the effective date of such proposed transaction. To the extent it has not been previously exercised, a Stock Right will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such proposed action.

(c) In the event of a merger of the Company with or into another corporation, or a Change of Control, each outstanding Stock Right shall be assumed (as defined below) or an equivalent option or right substituted by the successor corporation or a parent or subsidiary of the successor corporation. In the event that the successor corporation refuses to assume or substitute for the Stock Rights, the participants shall fully vest in and have the right to exercise their Stock Rights as to which it would not otherwise be vested or exercisable. If a Stock Right becomes fully vested and exercisable in lieu of assumption or substitution in the event of a merger or sale of assets, the Board or Compensation Committee shall notify the participant in writing or electronically that the Stock Right shall be fully vested and exercisable for a period of at least 15 days from the date of such notice, and any Options or SARs shall terminate one minute prior to the closing of the merger or sale of assets.

For the purposes of this Section 14(c), the Stock Right shall be considered assumed if, following the merger or Change of Control, the option or right confers the right to purchase or receive, for each share of Common Stock subject to the Stock Right immediately prior to the merger or Change of Control, the consideration (whether stock, cash, or other securities or property) received in the merger or Change of Control by holders of Common Stock for each share held on the effective date of the transaction (and if holders were offered a choice of consideration, the type of consideration chosen by the holders of a majority of the outstanding Shares); provided, however, that if such consideration received in the merger or Change of Control is not solely common stock of the successor corporation or its parent, the Board or Compensation Committee may, with the consent of the successor corporation, provide for the consideration to be received upon the exercise of the Stock Right, for each share of Common Stock subject to the Stock Right, to be solely common stock of the successor corporation or its parent equal in Fair Market Value to the per share consideration received by holders of Common Stock in the merger or Change of Control.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any adjustments made pursuant to Section 14(a), (b) or (c) with respect to ISOs shall be made only after the Board or Compensation Committee, after consulting with counsel for the Company, determines whether such adjustments would constitute a modification of such ISOs (as that term is defined in Section 425(h) of the Code) or would cause any adverse tax consequences for the holders of such ISOs. If the Board or Compensation Committee determines that such adjustments made with respect to ISOs would constitute a modification of such ISOs it may refrain from making such adjustments.

(e) No fractional shares shall be issued under the Plan and the optionee shall receive from the Company cash in lieu of such fractional shares.

#### 15. Means of Exercising Stock Rights.

(a) An Option or SAR (or any part or installment thereof) shall be exercised by giving written notice to the Company at its principal office address. Such notice shall identify the Stock Right being exercised and specify the number of shares as to which such Stock Right is being exercised, accompanied by full payment of the exercise price therefor (to

the extent it is exercisable in cash) either (i) in United States dollars by check or wire transfer; or (ii) at the discretion of the Board or Compensation Committee, through delivery of shares of Common Stock having a Fair Market Value equal as of the date of the exercise to the cash exercise price of the Stock Right; or (iii) at the discretion of the Board or Compensation Committee, by any combination of (i) and (ii) above. If the Board or Compensation Committee exercises its discretion to permit payment of the exercise price of an ISO by means of the methods set forth in clauses (ii) or (iii) of the preceding sentence, such discretion need not be exercised in writing at the time of the grant of the Stock Right in question. The holder of a Stock Right shall not have the rights of a shareholder with respect to the shares covered by his Stock Right until the date of issuance of a stock certificate to him for such shares. Except as expressly provided above in Section 14 with respect to changes in capitalization and stock dividends, no adjustment shall be made for dividends or similar rights for which the record date is before the date such stock certificate is issued.

(b) Each notice of exercise shall, unless the shares of Common Stock are covered by a then current registration statement under the Securities Act, contain the holder's acknowledgment in form and substance satisfactory to the Company that (i) such shares are being purchased for investment and not for distribution or resale (other than a distribution or resale which, in the opinion of counsel satisfactory to the Company, may be made without violating the registration provisions of the Securities Act), (ii) the holder has been advised and understands that (1) the shares have not been registered under the Securities Act and are restricted securities within the meaning of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and are subject to restrictions on transfer and (2) the Company is under no obligation to register the shares under the Securities Act or to take any action which would make available to the holder any exemption from such registration, and (iii) such shares may not be transferred without compliance with all applicable federal and state securities laws. Notwithstanding the above, should the Company be advised by counsel that issuance of shares should be delayed pending registration under federal or state securities laws or the receipt of an opinion that an appropriate exemption therefrom is available, the Company may defer exercise of any Stock Right granted hereunder until either such event has occurred.

16. Term, Termination and Amendment.

(a) This Plan was adopted by the Board. This Plan may be approved by the Company's shareholders, which approval is required for ISOs.

(b) The Board may terminate the Plan at any time. Unless sooner terminated, the Plan shall terminate on March \_\_, 2022 [or 10 years from the date the Board adopts the Plan]. No Stock Rights may be granted under the Plan once the Plan is terminated. Termination of the Plan shall not impair rights and obligations under any Stock Right granted while the Plan is in effect, except with the written consent of the grantee.

(c) The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the Plan. Provided, however, except as provided in Section 14 relating to adjustments in Common Stock, no amendment shall be effective unless approved by the shareholders of the Company to the extent (i) shareholder approval is necessary to satisfy the requirements of Section 422 of the Code or (ii) required by the rules of the principal national securities exchange or trading market upon which the Company's Common Stock trades. Rights under any Stock Rights granted before amendment of the Plan shall not be impaired by any amendment of the Plan, except with the written consent of the grantee.

(d) The Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend the terms of any one or more Stock Rights; provided, however, that the rights under the Stock Right shall not be impaired by any such amendment, except with the written consent of the grantee.

17. Conversion of ISOs into Non-Qualified Options; Termination of ISOs. The Board or Compensation Committee, at the written request of any optionee, may in its discretion take such actions as may be necessary to convert such optionee's ISOs (or any installments or portions of installments thereof) that have not been exercised on the date of conversion into Non-Qualified Options at any time prior to the expiration of such ISOs, regardless of whether the optionee is an employee of the Company or a Related Corporation at the time of such conversion. Provided, however, the Board or Compensation Committee shall not reprice the Options or extend the exercise period or reduce the exercise price of the appropriate installments of such Options without the approval of the Company's shareholders. At the time of such conversion, the Board or Compensation Committee (with the consent of the optionee) may impose such conditions on the exercise of the resulting Non-Qualified Options as the Board or Compensation Committee in its discretion may determine, provided that such conditions shall not be inconsistent with this Plan. Nothing in the Plan shall be deemed to give any optionee the right to have such optionee's ISOs converted into Non-Qualified Options, and no such conversion shall occur until and unless the Board or Compensation Committee takes appropriate action. The Compensation Committee, with the consent of the optionee, may also terminate any portion of any ISO that has not been exercised at the time of such termination.

18. Application of Funds. The proceeds received by the Company from the sale of shares pursuant to Options or SARS (if cash settled) granted under the Plan shall be used for general corporate purposes.

19. Governmental Regulations. The Company's obligation to sell and deliver shares of the Common Stock under this Plan is subject to the approval of any governmental authority required in connection with the authorization, issuance or sale of such shares.

20. Withholding of Additional Income Taxes. In connection with the granting, exercise or vesting of a Stock Right or the making of a Disqualifying Disposition the Company, in accordance with Section 3402(a) of the Code, may require the optionee to pay additional withholding taxes in respect of the amount that is considered compensation includable in such person's gross income.

To the extent that the Company is required to withhold taxes for federal income tax purposes as provided above, if any optionee may elect to satisfy such withholding requirement by (i) paying the amount of the required withholding tax to the Company; (ii) delivering to the Company shares of its Common Stock (including shares of Restricted Stock) previously owned by the optionee; or (iii) having the Company retain a portion of the shares covered by an Option exercise. The number of shares to be delivered to or withheld by the Company times the Fair Market Value of such shares shall equal the cash required to be withheld.

21. Notice to Company of Disqualifying Disposition. Each employee who receives an ISO must agree to notify the Company in writing immediately after the employee makes a Disqualifying Disposition of any Common Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of an ISO. If the employee has died before such stock is sold, the holding periods requirements of the Disqualifying Disposition do not apply and no Disqualifying Disposition can occur thereafter.

22. Continued Employment. The grant of a Stock Right pursuant to the Plan shall not be construed to imply or to constitute evidence of any agreement, express or implied, on the part of the Company or any Related Corporation to retain the grantee in the employ of the Company or a Related Corporation, as a member of the Company's Board or in any other capacity, whichever the case may be.

23. Governing Law; Construction. The validity and construction of the Plan and the instruments evidencing Stock Rights shall be governed by the laws of the Company's state of incorporation. In construing this Plan, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter, unless the context otherwise requires.

24. (a) Forfeiture of Stock Rights Granted to Employees or Consultants. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan, and unless otherwise provided for in a Stock Rights Agreement, all vested or unvested Stock Rights granted to employees or consultants shall be immediately forfeited at the discretion of the Board if any of the following events occur:

(1) Termination of the relationship with the grantee for cause including, but not limited to, fraud, theft, dishonesty and violation of Company policy;

(2) Purchasing or selling securities of the Company in violation of the Company's insider trading guidelines then in effect;

(3) Breaching any duty of confidentiality including that required by the Company's insider trading guidelines then in effect;

(4) Competing with the Company;

(5) Being unavailable for consultation after leaving the Company's employment if such availability is a condition of any agreement between the Company and the grantee;

(6) Recruitment of Company personnel after termination of employment, whether such termination is voluntary or for cause;

(7) Failure to assign any invention or technology to the Company if such assignment is a condition of employment or any other agreements between the Company and the grantee; or

(8) A finding by the Board that the grantee has acted disloyally and/or against the interests of the Company.

(b) Forfeiture of Stock Rights Granted to Directors. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan, and unless otherwise provided for in a Stock Rights Agreement, all vested or unvested Stock Rights granted to directors shall be immediately forfeited at the discretion of the Board if any of the following events occur:

(1) Purchasing or selling securities of the Company in violation of the Company's insider trading guidelines then in effect;

(2) Breaching any duty of confidentiality including that required by the Company's insider trading guidelines then in effect;

(3) Competing with the Company;

(4) Recruitment of Company personnel after ceasing to be a director; or

(5) A finding by the Board that the grantee has acted disloyally and/or against the interests of the Company.

The Company may impose other forfeiture restrictions which are more or less restrictive and require a return of profits from the sale of Common Stock as part of said forfeiture provisions if such forfeiture provisions and/or return of provisions are contained in a Stock Rights Agreement.





(c) Profits on the Sale of Certain Shares: Redemption. If any of the events specified in Section 24(a) or (b) of the Plan occur within one year from the date the grantee last performed services for the Company in the capacity for which the Stock Rights were granted (the Termination Date ) (or such longer period required by any written agreement), all profits earned from the sale of the Company's securities, including the sale of shares of common stock underlying the Stock Rights, during the two-year period commencing one year prior to the Termination Date shall be forfeited and immediately paid by the grantee to the Company. Further, in such event, the Company may at its option redeem shares of common stock acquired upon exercise of the Stock Right by payment of the exercise price to the grantee. To the extent that another written agreement with the Company extends the events in Section 24(a) or (b) beyond one year following the Termination Date, the two-year period shall be extended by an equal number of days. The Company's rights under this Section 24(c) do not lapse one year from the Termination Date but are contract rights subject to any appropriate statutory limitation period.

**Aspen Group, Inc.**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS March 19, 2018 AT 10:00 AM

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

**If you vote by phone or internet, please DO NOT mail your proxy card.**

**MAIL:** Please mark, sign, date, and return this Proxy Card promptly using the enclosed envelope.

**PHONE:** Call 702-544-0195

**INTERNET:** <https://www.proxyvote.com>

**Control ID:**

**Proxy ID:**

**Password:**

**MARK  HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING: [ ]**

**MARK HERE FOR ADDRESS CHANGE [ ] New Address (if applicable):**

**IMPORTANT:** Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

(Print Name of Shareholder and/or Joint Tenant)

(Signature of Shareholder)

(Second Signature if held jointly)

The shareholder(s) hereby appoints **Michael Mathews** and **Janet Gill** as proxy, with the power to appoint a substitute, and hereby authorizes him or her to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side of this ballot, all of the shares of voting stock of ASPEN GROUP, INC. that the shareholder(s) is/are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholder(s) to be held at 10:00 a.m., local time on March 19, 2018, at the Company's corporate offices, located at \_\_\_\_\_, and any adjournment or postponement thereof.



**This proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein. If no such direction is made, this proxy will be voted in accordance with the Board of Director s recommendations. If any other business is presented at the meeting, this proxy will be voted by the above-named proxies at the direction of the Board of Directors. At the present time, the Board of Directors knows of no other business to be presented at the meeting.**

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following Nominees:**

1.

To elect members of Aspen s Board of Directors.

Michael Mathews	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Michael D Anton	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Norman Dicks	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
C. James Jensen	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Andrew Kaplan	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Malcolm MacLean IV	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Sanford Rich	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
John Scheibelhoffer	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Rick Solomon	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]
Oksana Malysheva	FOR [ ]	WITHHELD [ ]

**The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR each of the following Proposals:**

2.

FOR [ ] AGAINST [ ] ABSTAIN  
[ ]

To ratify prior amendments increasing the amount of shares issuable under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan to 3,500,000 shares.

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3. FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

To ratify the shares issued and issuable in connection with the acquisition of United States University;

4. FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

To approve the Aspen's named executive officers compensation.

5. FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

To ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2018.

**Control ID:**

**Proxy ID:**

**Password:**