As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 30, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8 REGISTRATION STATEMENT Under

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SLM CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) 11600 Sallie Mae Drive Reston, Virginia 20193 52-2013874 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

SLM CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

(Address of Principal Executive Offices Including Zip Code)

(Full Title of the Plans)

Marianne M. Keler, Esq. General Counsel SLM CORPORATION 11600 Sallie Mae Drive Reston, Virginia 21093 (703) 810-3000 Copies to:

Ronald O. Mueller, Esq. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 955-8500

(Name and Address of Agent For Service)

(703) 810-3000

(Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Óff	sed Maximum ering Price r Share(2)	oposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of istration Fee(2)
Common Stock, \$0.20 par value per share	6,000,000 shares	\$	38.915	\$ 233,490,000	\$ 18,889.35

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, there is also being registered such additional shares of Common Stock that become available under the foregoing plan in connection with changes in the number of outstanding Common Stock because of events such as recapitalizations, stock dividends, stock splits and reverse stock splits, and any other securities with respect to which the outstanding Shares are converted or exchanged.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. The registration fee has been calculated in accordance with Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act based upon the average high and low prices for the Common Stock on September 26, 2003, which was \$38.915.

INTRODUCTION

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is filed by SLM Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Registrant" or the "Company") relating to 6,000,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$.20 per share (the "Common Stock"), to be offered and sold under the Company's Employee Stock Option Plan.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The information required in Part I of this Registration Statement is included in prospectuses for the Company's Employee Stock Option Plan that are not filed as part of this Registration Statement pursuant to the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") are hereby incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement:

- 1. The Company's most recent Annual Report, which on the date this Form S-8 is filed is the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002, filed on March 27, 2003.
- 2. The Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for its fiscal quarters ended after the end of the fiscal year covered by the Form 10-K referenced above, which on the date this Form S-8 is filed is the Company's Form 10-Q for the first quarter ended March 31, 2003, filed on May 13, 2003, and the Company's Form 10-Q for the second quarter ended June 30, 2003, filed on August 13, 2003.
- 3. All other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Form 10-K referenced above, which on the date this Form S-8 is filed is the Company's Form 8-K, filed on January 17, 2003, the Company's Form 8-K, filed on January 28, 2003 and the Company's Form 8-K, filed on May 29, 2003.
- 4. The description of the Common Stock set forth under the caption "Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered" in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated November 11, 1999, together with any amendment or report filed with the Commission for the purpose of updating such description.

All reports and other documents that the Company subsequently files with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment indicating that the Company has sold all of the securities offered under this Registration Statement or that deregisters the distribution of all such securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement from the date that the Company files such report or document. Any statement contained in this Registration Statement or any report or document incorporated into this Registration Statement by reference, however, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained in a subsequently dated report or document that is also considered part of this Registration Statement, or in any amendment to this Registration Statement, is inconsistent with such prior statement. The Registrati's file number with the Commission is 001-13251.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

On May 9, 2002, we announced that we had appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to replace Arthur Andersen LLP ("Andersen") as our independent auditors. Our consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2001 incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement have been audited by Andersen, as stated in their report dated January 16, 2002, which is incorporated by reference herein. After reasonable efforts, we have been unable to obtain Andersen's consent to the incorporation by reference into this Registration Statement of Andersen's report with respect to these financial statements. Under these circumstances, Rule 437a under the Securities Act permits us to file this Registration Statement without a written consent from Andersen. The absence of such consent may limit recovery by investors on certain claims. In particular, and without limitation, investors will not be able to assert claims against Andersen under Section 11 of the Securities Act. In addition, the ability of Andersen to satisfy any claims (including claims arising from Andersen's provision of auditing and other services to us) may be limited as a practical matter.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Article VIII of the Registrant's By-Laws provides for indemnification of the officers and directors of SLM Corporation to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, in relevant part, that a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware shall have the power, and in certain cases the obligation, to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any suit or proceeding because such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving, at the request of the corporation, as a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation by him in connection with such suit or proceeding if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, he or she had no reason to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Similar indemnity is permitted to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and provided further (unless a court of competent jurisdiction otherwise determines) that such person shall not have been adjudged liable to the corporation.

The directors and officers of the Registrant and its subsidiaries are covered by a policy of insurance under which they are insured, within the limits and subject to certain limitations, against certain expenses in connection with the defense of actions, suits or proceedings, and certain liabilities that might be imposed as a result of such actions, suits or proceedings in which they are parties by reason of being or having been directors or officers.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing

provisions, the Registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Item 7.	Exemption from Registration Claimed. Not applicable.
Item 8. Exhibit No.	Exhibits. Description
4.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant as filed with the Secretary of State on February 18, 1999.
4.2	Bylaws of the Registrant.
5.1	Opinion of Marianne M. Keler, Esq., General Counsel of SLM Corporation
10.1	SLM Corporation Employee Stock Option Plan
23.1	Consent of Marianne M. Keler, Esq. (contained in Exhibit 5.1)
23.2	Consent of Independent Accountants*
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement)

* Please refer to Item 5, "Interests of Named Experts and Counsel".

Item 9. Undertakings.

1. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(a) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act");

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and

any deviation from the low or high and of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(a)(i) and (1)(a)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement;

(b) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; and

(c) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

2. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

3. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Company has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Company of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Company in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Company will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

[SIGNATURES ON THE NEXT PAGE]

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Reston, Commonwealth of Virginia, on this 29th day of September, 2003.

SLM CORPORATION

By:	/s/ Albert L. Lord
Name:	Albert L. Lord
Title:	Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated. Each of the directors and/or officers of the Registrant whose signature appears below hereby appoints Marianne M. Keler and Mike Sheehan, and each of them severally as his attorney-in-fact to sign his name and on his behalf, in any and all capacities stated below, and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any and all amendments, including post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement as appropriate, and generally to do all such things in their behalf in their capacities as officers and directors to enable Registrant to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Name and Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Albert L. Lord	Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	September 29, 2003
Albert L. Lord	and Director	
/s/ John F. Remondi	Executive Vice President, Finance (Principal Financial	September 29, 2003
John F. Remondi	Officer)	
/s/ C.E. ANDREWS	Executive Vice President, Accounting and Risk	September 29, 2003
C.E. Andrews	Management (Principal Accounting Officer)	
/s/ Edward A. Fox	Chairman of the Board of Directors	September 29, 2003

Edward A. Fox

/s/ Charles L. Daley	Director	September 29, 2003
Charles L. Daley	-	
/s/ THOMAS J. FITZPATRICK	President and Chief Operating Officer and Director	September 29, 2003
Thomas J. Fitzpatrick	-	
/s/ William M. Diefenderfer, III	Director	September 29, 2003
William M. Diefenderfer, III	_	
/s/ DIANE SUITT GILLELAND	Director	September 29, 2003
Diane Suitt Gilleland	_	
/s/ Earl A. Goode	Director	September 29, 2003
Earl A. Goode	_	
/s/ ANN TORRE GRANT	Director	September 29, 2003
Ann Torre Grant	_	
/s/ Ronald F. Hunt	Director	September 29, 2003
Ronald F. Hunt	_	
/s/ Benjamin J. Lambert, III	Director	September 29, 2003
Benjamin J. Lambert, III	_	
/s/ BARRY A. MUNITZ	Director	September 29, 2003
Barry A. Munitz	_	
/s/ A. Alexander Porter, Jr.	Director	September 29, 2003
A. Alexander Porter, Jr.	-	

September 29, 2003
September 29, 2003

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description	Sequentially Numbered Page
4.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant as filed with the Secretary of State on February 18, 1999, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-38391)	N/A
4.2	Bylaws of the Registrant, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-38391)	N/A
5.1	Opinion of Marianne M. Keler, Esq., General Counsel of SLM Corporation	10
10.1	SLM Corporation Employee Stock Option Plan.	12
23.1	Consent of Marianne M. Keler, Esq. (contained in Exhibit 5.1)	10
23.2	Consent of Independent Accountants*	18
24.1 * Please r	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement) efer to Item 5, "Interests of Named Experts and Counsel".	6

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*

EXHIBIT 5.1

September 29, 2003

SLM Corporation 11600 Sallie Mae Drive Reston, VA 20193

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Executive Vice President and General Counsel of SLM Corporation (formerly USA Education Inc. and formerly SLM Holding Corporation), a Delaware corporation (the "Corporation"). The Corporation is about to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission on a registration statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, an aggregate of 6,000,000 shares of the Corporation's common stock, \$0.20 par value per share (the "Shares"), which Shares may be offered and sold under the SLM Corporation's Employee Stock Option Plan (the "Plan").

As General Counsel for the Corporation, I am familiar with its Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, and Bylaws, as amended. I have examined the Plan, the prospectus that will be distributed to participants in the Plan (the "Prospectus") and the Registration Statement.

I have also examined and relied upon such corporate records of the Corporation and other documents and certificates with respect to factual matters as I have deemed necessary to render the opinion expressed herein. With respect to the documents I have reviewed, I have assumed, without independent verification, the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals, and the conformity with originals of all documents submitted to me as copies. As to any facts material to this opinion that I did not independently establish or verify, I have relied upon statements and representations of other officers and representatives of the Corporation.

Based upon my examination mentioned above, I am of the opinion that all necessary corporate proceedings by the Corporation have been duly taken to authorize the issuance of the Shares pursuant to the Plan and that the Shares being registered pursuant to the Registration Statement, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the Plan, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

This letter expresses my opinion as to the provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law governing the authorization and issuance of stock, but does not extend to the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of Delaware or any other jurisdiction or to federal securities laws or to other laws.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as part of the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, I do not thereby admit that I am within the category of persons whose

consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Rules and Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder. This opinion is intended solely for your use in connection with the transactions described above. No other person may rely on this opinion for any other purpose without my prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Marianne M. Keler

Marianne M. Keler

SLM Corporation EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

1. <u>PURPOSE</u>

This Employee Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") is intended to enable SLM Corporation (formerly USA Education, Inc., renamed on May 17, 2002), a Delaware corporation to grant Awards to broad classes of employees of SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries and affiliates and other key personnel, thereby helping to retain and motivate such individuals, and to encourage the judgment, initiative and efforts of such individuals by further aligning their interests with those of the stockholders of the Corporation.

2. DEFINITIONS

"Awards" means the benefits or arrangements authorized under this Plan, which are Stock Options and Performance Stock.

"Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of SLM Corporation

"Committee" means the Board of Directors and/or a committee of the Board of Directors acting pursuant to its authorization to administer this Plan under Section 4.

"Common Stock" means SLM Corporation's common stock, par value \$.20, as presently constituted, subject to adjustment, and including other securities, as provided in Section 8.

"Corporation" means SLM Corporation and its Subsidiaries and affiliates, unless the context requires otherwise.

"Performance Stock" means an award of shares of Common Stock the grant, issuance, retention and/or vesting of which shall be subject to such performance conditions and to such further terms and conditions as the Committee deems appropriate.

"Subsidiary" means any joint venture, corporation, partnership or other entity as to which the Corporation, whether directly or indirectly, has more than 50% of the (i) voting rights or (ii) rights to capital or profits, and whose employees have been designated by the Committee as eligible to participate in the Plan.

"Stock Options" or "Options" means a right to purchase a number of shares of Common Stock at an exercise price, at such times and on such terms and conditions as are specified in or determined pursuant to an agreement evidencing an Award. Stock Options granted pursuant to this Plan are non-qualified stock options and are not Incentive Stock Options, as defined in Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

3. COMMON STOCK SUBJECT TO THE PLAN

Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 8, the maximum number of shares of Common Stock which may be issued pursuant to this Plan shall not exceed 63,000,000 (adjusted for a 3 for 1 stock split effective June 20, 2003). Shares issued under this Plan may be authorized and unissued shares of Common Stock or shares of Common Stock reacquired by SLM Corporation. For purposes of this Section 3, the aggregate number of Shares issued under this Plan at any time shall equal only the number of Shares actually issued upon exercise or settlement of an Award and not returned to the Corporation upon cancellation, expiration or forfeiture of an Award or in payment or satisfaction of the purchase price, exercise price or tax withholding obligation of an Award. The number of shares of Common Stock issued upon the

exercise of "replacement options", i.e. Options granted to purchase a number of shares of Common Stock equal to the number of shares of Common Stock used to exercise an underlying Stock Option (either shares previously owned or shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of the underlying Option and sold in order to exercise e.g., such as in a so-called "cashless exercise"), shall not reduce the aggregate number of shares authorized under the Plan.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN

The Plan shall be administered by the Board of Directors and/or by a Committee of the Board of Directors of SLM Corporation, as appointed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies on and from time to time may remove or add members to the Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise restricted by the Board of Directors, the Committee may appoint one or more separate committees (any such committee, a "Subcommittee") composed of one or more directors of SLM Corporation (who may, but need not, be members of the Committee) and may delegate to any such Subcommittee(s) the authority to grant Awards under the Plan to Eligible Employees, to determine all terms of such Awards, and/or to administer the Plan or any aspect of it. Any action by any such Subcommittee within the scope of such delegation shall be deemed for all purposes to have been taken by the Committee. The Subcommittee's authority to grant Awards is limited in the same manner as provided for in the administration of the Corporation's Management Incentive Plan.

Subject to the express provisions of this Plan, the Committee shall be authorized and empowered to do all things necessary or desirable in connection with the administration of this Plan, including, without limitation: (a) to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to this Plan and to define terms not otherwise defined herein; (b) to determine which persons are Eligible Employees (as defined in Section 5 hereof), to which of such Eligible Employees, if any, an Award shall be granted hereunder; (c) to determine the number of shares of Common Stock subject to an Award and the exercise or purchase price of shares subject to a Stock Option; (d) to establish and verify the extent of satisfaction of any conditions to exercisability or vesting of an Award, (e) to waive conditions to and/or accelerate exercisability or vesting of an Award, either automatically upon the occurrence of specified events (including in connection with a change of control of SLM Corporation) or otherwise in its discretion; (f) to prescribe and amend the terms of an Award made under this Plan (which need not be identical); (g) to determine whether, and the extent to which, adjustments are required pursuant to Section 8 hereof; (h) to interpret and construe this Plan, any rules and regulations under the Plan and the terms and conditions of any Award granted hereunder, and to make exceptions to any such provisions in good faith and for the benefit of the Corporation; and (i) to make all other determinations deemed necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The Committee shall act pursuant to a majority vote or unanimous written consent.

All decisions, determinations and interpretations by the Committee regarding the Plan, any rules and regulations under the Plan and the terms and conditions of any Award granted hereunder, shall be final and binding on all Eligible Employees and recipients of Awards. The Committee shall consider such factors as it deems relevant, in its sole and absolute discretion, to making such decisions, determinations and interpretations including, without limitation, the recommendations or advice of any officer or other employee of the Corporation and such attorneys, consultants and accountants as it may select.

5. <u>ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES</u>

Any person who is an employee of the Corporation, a director of a Subsidiary, a prospective employee, consultant or advisor of the Corporation shall be eligible (an "Eligible Employee") to be considered for the grant of an Award hereunder unless the grant of an Award to such person would require the Plan to be approved by stockholders of SLM Corporation under Rule 312.03(a) of the rules of the New York Stock Exchange.

6. GRANT, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPTIONS

Options may be granted at any time and from time to time prior to the termination of the Plan to Eligible Employees. Each Option agreement shall contain provisions regarding (a) the number of Shares which may be issued upon exercise of the Option, (b) the purchase price of the Shares and the means of payment for the Shares, (c) the term of the Option, (d) such terms and conditions of exercise as may be determined from time to time by the Committee, (e) restrictions on the transfer of the Option and forfeiture provisions, and (f) such further terms and conditions, in each case not inconsistent with the Plan as may be determined from time to time by the Committee. Options granted pursuant to the Plan need not be identical but each Option shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) <u>Option Grants</u>: The Committee, on behalf of the Corporation, is authorized under this Plan to grant an Option or provide for the grant of an Option, either automatically or in the discretion of the Committee, upon the occurrence of specified events, including, without limitation, the achievement of performance goals or the satisfaction of an event or condition within the control of the recipient of the Option or within the control of others.

(b) Price: The exercise price for each Option shall be established by the Committee. The exercise price shall not be less than the fair market value of the Common Stock on the date of grant of the Option, except that the Committee may specifically provide that the exercise price of an Option may be higher or lower in the case of an Option granted to employees of a company acquired by the Corporation in assumption and substitution of Options held by such employees at the time such company is acquired. Unless the Committee shall specify otherwise, for purposes of this Plan the term "fair market value" shall mean, as of any date, the closing price for a Share reported for that date on the consolidated tape for securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange or, if no Shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange on the date in question, then for the next preceding date for which Shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The exercise price shall be paid in such form of consideration as the Committee in its discretion shall specify, which may but need not include, e.g., in cash, by payment under an arrangement with a broker where payment is made pursuant to an irrevocable direction to the broker to deliver all or part of the proceeds from the sale of the Option shares to the Corporation, by the surrender of shares of Common Stock owned for at least six months by the Option holder exercising the Option and having a fair market value on the date of exercise equal to the Option price, or by any combination of the foregoing.

(c) <u>Duration and Exercise or Termination of Option</u>: Each Option shall be exercisable in such manner and at such times as the Committee shall determine. The Committee may specify that Options granted under this Plan shall become exercisable at such time and in such installments during the period prior to the expiration of the Option's term as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. The Committee shall have the right to make the timing of exercise of any Option granted under the Plan subject to such performance requirements as deemed appropriate by the Committee. At any time after the grant of an Option the Committee may, in its sole discretion, reduce or eliminate any restrictions surrounding the Participant's right to exercise all or part of the Option. Each Option granted must expire within a period of not more than ten (10) years from the grant date.

(d) <u>Suspension or Termination of Option</u>: The Chief Executive Officer, any Executive Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer, the Treasurer and the General Counsel of SLM Corporation (any such person, an "Authorized Officer") each may provide at any time (including after a notice of exercise has been delivered) and from time to time that the right to exercise an Option may be suspended pending a determination by an Authorized Officer or the Committee on whether an Eligible Employee to whom the Option was granted or an Option holder has committed an act of embezzlement, fraud, dishonesty, nonpayment of any obligation owed to the Corporation, breach of fiduciary duty or deliberate disregard of Corporation rules; has made an unauthorized disclosure of any Corporation trade secret or confidential information; has engaged in any conduct constituting unfair competition; has induced any customer of the Corporation to breach a contract with the Corporation or any principal for whom the Corporation acts as agent to terminate such agency relationship; or has engaged in any other act or conduct proscribed by the Committee from time to time (any such act or conduct, individually or collectively, sometime hereinafter referred to as "Misconduct"). No person shall be entitled to exercise any Option granted to an Eligible Employee or held by an Option holder if the Authorized

Officer or the Committee, as the case may be, has determined such Eligible Employee or Option holder to have engaged in any Misconduct.

(e) <u>Conditions and Restrictions Upon Securities Subject to Options</u>: The Committee may provide that the shares of Common Stock issued upon exercise of an Option shall be subject to such further conditions or agreements as the Committee in its discretion may specify prior to the exercise of such Option, including without limitation, conditions on vesting or transferability and forfeiture or repurchase provisions.

Transferability of Option: Unless otherwise provided by the Committee, each Option shall be transferable only by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

<u>Cancellation</u>: The Committee may, at any time prior to exercise and subject to consent of the Eligible Employee, cancel any Option previously granted and may or may not substitute in its place an Option with a different exercise price, different terms or in different amounts.

(f) <u>Other Terms and Conditions</u>: Options may also contain such other provisions, which shall not be inconsistent with any of the foregoing terms, as the Committee shall deem appropriate. No Option, however, nor anything contained in the Plan shall confer upon any Eligible Employee any right to continue in the Corporation's employ or service nor limit in any way the Corporation's right to terminate his or her employment or service at any time. Option grants may be evidenced by a written agreement and/or such other written arrangements as may be approved from time to time by the Committee.

7. <u>PERFORMANCE STOCK</u>

Performance Stock consists of an award of Common Stock, the grant, issuance, retention and/or vesting of which shall be subject to such performance conditions and to such further terms and conditions, as the Committee deems appropriate.

(a) <u>Performance Stock Award</u>. Each Performance Stock award shall contain provisions regarding (a) the number of shares of Common Stock subject to such award or a formula for determining such, (b) the performance criteria and level of achievement versus these criteria which shall determine the number of shares granted, issued, retainable and/or vested, (c) the period as to which performance shall be measured for determining achievement of performance, (d) forfeiture provisions, and (e) such further terms and conditions, in each case not inconsistent with the Plan as may be determined from time to time by the Committee.

(b) <u>Performance Criteria</u>. The grant, issuance, retention and/or vesting of each Performance Share shall be subject to such performance criteria and level of achievement versus these criteria as the Committee shall determine, which criteria may be based on financial performance and/or personal performance evaluations.

(c) <u>Timing and Form of Payment</u>. The Committee shall determine the timing of payment of any Performance Stock. The Committee may provide for or, subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee may specify, may permit a Participant to elect for the payment of any Performance Stock to be deferred to a specified date or event.

(d) <u>Discretionary Adjustments</u>. Notwithstanding satisfaction of any performance goals, the number of shares granted, issued, retainable and/or vested under a Performance Stock award on account of either financial performance or personal performance evaluations may be reduced by the Committee on the basis of such further considerations as the Committee in its sole discretion shall determine.

8. ADJUSTMENT OF AND CHANGES IN SECURITIES

(a) If the outstanding securities of the class(es) then subject to this Plan are increased, decreased or exchanged for or converted into cash, property or a different number or kind of shares or other securities, or if cash, property or shares or other securities are distributed in respect of such outstanding securities, in either case as a result of a reorganization, reclassification, dividend (other than a regular, quarterly cash dividend) or other distribution, stock split, reverse stock split, spin-off or the like, or if substantially all of the property and assets of the Corporation are sold, then, unless the terms of such transaction shall provide otherwise, the maximum number and type of shares or other securities that may be subject to Options and issued in accord with this Plan shall be appropriately adjusted. The Committee shall determine in its sole discretion the appropriate adjustment to be effected pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence. In addition, in connection with any such change in the class(es) of securities that may be acquired pursuant to Options theretofore granted under this Plan and the exercise price of such Options. In addition, in the event of such change described in this paragraph, the Committee may accelerate the time or times at which any Option may be exercised and may provide for cancellation of any such accelerated Option which is not exercised within a time prescribed by the Committee in its sole discretion.

(b) No right to purchase fractional shares or fractions of other securities shall result from any adjustment in Options pursuant to this Section. In case of any such adjustment, the shares or other securities subject to the Option shall be rounded down to the nearest whole share of Common Stock or equivalent other security, as the case may be.

9. REGISTRATION, LISTING OR QUALIFICATION OF SECURITIES

In the event the Committee determines in its discretion that, as a condition to the issuance of shares under any award, the registration, listing or qualification of the shares of Common Stock issuable under the Plan or under an Award is necessary or desirable under the rules of any securities exchange or under any law or governmental regulation, then the Committee may suspend the exercisability of any or all Options in whole or in part until such registration, listing, qualification, consent or approval has been unconditionally obtained. No Option holder shall have any rights as a stockholder with respect to any shares of Common Stock subject to an Option hereunder until said shares have been issued.

10. TAX WITHHOLDING

To the extent required by applicable federal, state, local or foreign law, an Eligible Employee or recipient of an Award shall make arrangements satisfactory to the Committee for the satisfaction of any withholding tax obligations that arise by reason of the grant, vesting or exercise of an Award. The Corporation shall not be required to issue shares of Common Stock or to recognize the disposition of such shares until such obligations are satisfied.

11. AWARDS BY SUBSIDIARIES

In the case of a grant of an Award to any Eligible Employee employed by a Subsidiary, such grant may, if the Committee so directs, be implemented by SLM Corporation issuing any subject shares to the Subsidiary, for such lawful consideration as the Committee may determine, upon the condition or understanding that the Subsidiary will transfer the shares to the Eligible Employee in accordance with the terms of the award specified by the Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Plan. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, such award may be issued by and in the name of the Subsidiary and shall be deemed granted on such date as the Committee shall determine.

12. EFFECTIVE DATE, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF PLAN

This Plan became effective upon September 18, 1997. The Plan was amended on November 19, 1998, January 13, 2000, June 13, 2000, October 25, 2001, and September 6, 2002. Unless earlier suspended or terminated by the Board of Directors, or extended as provided below, no Awards may be granted after September 18, 2007. The Board of Directors or the Committee may from time to time extend the effective term of the Plan and otherwise amend the Plan as determined appropriate, without action by SLM Corporation's stockholders except to the extent required by applicable law. References in the Plan and in writings evidencing and setting the terms of Option grants which refer to the Code or other applicable law shall also be deemed to refer to any applicable successor provisions thereof unless otherwise determined by the Committee. The Plan may be earlier terminated at such earlier time as the Board of Directors may determine.

EXHIBIT 23.2

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated January 15, 2003 relating to the financial statements which appears in SLM Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

McLean, VA September 29, 2003