## **SLM Corporation**

## Medium Term Notes, Series B



## With Maturities of 9 Months or More from Date of Issue

Registration No. 333-90316 Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)

**Pricing Supplement** No. 221

(To Prospectus dated January 23, 2003 and Prospectus Supplement dated January 23, 2003)

The date of this Pricing Supplement is 2/23/2004

Trade Date: Issue Date:

2/23/2004 2/26/2004

						Interest Payment		Subject to Redemption					
		Stated									A		
		Interest Rate Per	Maturity	Price to	Discounts &		First	Survivor's		Date and terms	Aggregate Principal	Net	OID
	CUSIP	Annum(1)	Date	Public(2)(3)	Commissions	Frequency	Payment	Option	Yes/No	of redemption	Amount	Proceeds	Status
-													
	78490FKF5	FLOAT	6/15/2009	100%	0.750%	Quarterly(4)	06/15/04	No	No		1,635,000	1,622,737.50	N

Floating Rate Index	Spread	Reset Period(4)	Accrual Method	Maximum Interest Rate	Minimum Interest Rate
91 Day T-Bill	0.600%	Weekly	Actual/Actual (Payment	N/A	N/A

Effective April 7, 2003 the name of Salomon Smith Barney Inc., an agent of the program, was changed to Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

The interest rates on the Ed Notes may be changed by SLM Corporation from time to time, but any such change will not affect the interest rate on any Ed Notes offered prior to the effective date of the (1) change.

Expressed as a percentage of aggregate principal amount.

See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" in the Prospectus supplement for additional information concerning price to public and underwriting compensation.

On the Interest Reset Date, which is the day after the 3 month T Bill auction, the Calculation Agent will establish the new rate based on the BEY for the 3 month T Bill auction pulished in H.15

(http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov/of/ofrespr.htm).

In the event that the results of the 91 day Treasury Bill auction ceases to be published or reported, or that no auction is held in a particular week, then the rate in effect as a result of the last such report will remain in effect until such time, as the results of auctions of 91 day Treasury Bills will again be published.

## QuickLinks

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