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

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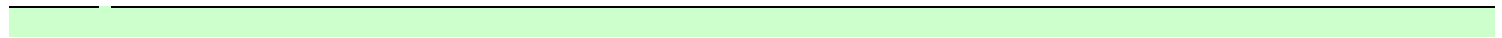
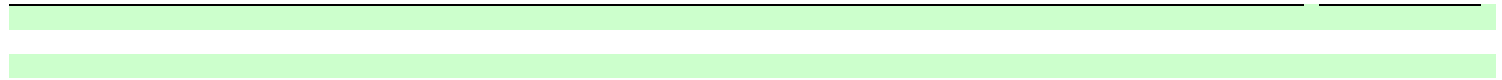
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**Item 5.02 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(e)

CEO Employment Agreement

Effective on July 21, 2021, Aspen Group, Inc. (the "Company") entered into an Employment Agreement with Michael Mathews, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. The Employment Agreement replaced his previously disclosed Employment Agreement, dated November 2017.



**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**ASPEN GROUP, INC.**

Date: July 23, 2021

By: /s/ Michael Mathews

Name: Michael Mathews

Title: Chief Executive Officer

1.



Agreement replaces that certain Employment Agreement between the Executive and the Company dated November 1, 2016, as amended.

2. Term of Employment.

(a) Term. The Company hereby employs the Executive, and the Executive hereby accepts employment with the Company for a period of three years commencing as of the Effective Date (such period, as it may be extended or renewed, the "Term"), unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of Section 6. The Term shall be automatically renewed for successive one-year terms unless notice of non-renewal is given by either party at least 30 days before the end of the Term.

(b) Continuing Effect. Notwithstanding any termination of this Agreement, at the end of the Term or otherwise, the provisions of Sections 6(e), 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 15, 18, 19, and 22 shall remain in full force and effect and the provisions of Section 9 shall be binding upon the legal representatives, successors and assigns of the Executive.

3. Duties.

(a) General Duties. The Executive shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, with duties and responsibilities that are customary for such an executive. The Executive shall report to the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Executive shall also perform services for such subsidiaries of the Company as may be necessary. The Executive shall use his best efforts to perform his duties and discharge his responsibilities pursuant to this Agreement competently, carefully and faithfully. In determining whether or not the Executive has used his best efforts hereunder, the Executive's and the Company's delegation of authority and all surrounding circumstances shall be taken into account and the best efforts of the Executive shall not be judged solely on the Company's earnings or other results of the Executive's performance, except as specifically provided to the contrary by this Agreement. The Executive shall, if requested, also serve as a member of the Board of the Company or as an officer or director of any affiliate of the Company for no additional compensation.

(b) Devotion of Time. Subject to the last sentence of this Section 3(b), the Executive shall devote such time, attention and energies to the affairs of the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates as are necessary to perform his duties and responsibilities pursuant to this Agreement. The Executive shall not enter the employ of or serve as a consultant to, or in any way perform any services with or without compensation to, any other persons, business, or organization, without the prior consent of the Board. Notwithstanding the above, the Executive shall be permitted to devote a limited amount of his time, to professional, charitable or similar organizations, including, but not limited to, serving as a non-executive director or committee member or as an advisor to a board of directors or committee of any company or organization provided that such activities do not interfere with the Executive's performance of his duties and responsibilities as provided hereunder.

(c) Location of Office. The Executive's principal business office shall be the Company's offices in New York and the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area (the "Metro Area").



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.

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

Adjusted  
 Provided, however, that the earning of the Target Bonus is subject to the Company having at least \$2,000,000 in available cash as of the last day of an applicable fiscal year after deducting the Target Bonus 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 continuing to provide services under this Agreement on the applicable Target Bonus determination date. If the Company is unable to pay the Target Bonus as a result of not meeting the Cash Threshold, the Target Bonus will be earned for that fiscal year. As used in this Agreement, Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as earnings (or loss) from continuing operations before preferred dividends, interest expense, income taxes, bad debt expense, depreciation and amortization.

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argue that the resolution should not be adopted; or (x) the Executive abuses alcohol or drugs in a manner that interferes with the successful performance of his duties.

(c) Termination by the Company Without Cause, Termination by Executive for Good Reason or Automatic Termination Upon a Change of Control or at the end of a Term after the Company provides notice of Non-Renewal.

(1) This Agreement may be terminated: (i) by the Executive for Good Reason (as defined below), (ii) by the Company without Cause, (iii) upon any Change of Control event as defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3(i)(5) provided, that, within 12 months of the Change of Control event (A) the Company terminates the Executive's employment, fails to obtain an agreement from any successor to the Company to assume and agree to perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform if no succession had taken place, or changes his title as Chief Executive Officer, or (B) the Executive terminates his employment or (iv) at the end of a Term after the Company provides the Executive with notice of non-renewal.

(2) In the event this Agreement is terminated by the Executive for Good Reason or by the Company without Cause, the Executive shall be entitled to the following:

- (A) any accrued but unpaid Base Salary for services rendered to the date of termination;
- (B) any accrued but unpaid expenses required to be reimbursed under this Agreement;
- (C) a severance payment ("Severance Amount") equal to 12 months of the then Base Salary;

(D) the Executive or his legally appointed guardian, as the case may be, shall have up to one year from the date of termination to exercise all such previously granted options, provided that in no event shall any option be exercisable beyond its Term;

(E) all equity awards previously granted to the Executive under the Incentive Plan or similar plan shall thereupon become fully vested; and

(F) any benefits (except perquisites) to which the Executive was entitled pursuant to Section 5(b) hereof shall continue to be paid or provided by the Company, as the case may be, for six months, subject to the terms of any applicable plan or insurance contract and applicable law provided that such benefits are exempt from Section 409A of the Code by reason of Treasury Regulation 1.409A-1(a)(5) or otherwise. In the event all or a portion of the benefits to which the Executive was entitled pursuant to Section 5(b) hereof are subject to 409A of the Code, the Executive shall not be entitled to the benefits that are subject to Section 409A of the Code subsequent to the termination of the Agreement.



period” (as such term is defined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(b)(4)(i)(A)).

(3) In the event of a Change of Control during the Term, the Executive, subject to the termination of employment or change in title as outlined in Section 6(c)(1), shall be entitled to receive each of the provisions of Section 6(c)(2)(A) – (F) above except that (i) the Severance Amount shall equal to 18 months of the then Base Salary; (ii) the Executive shall receive 100% of the existing Target Bonus, if any, for that fiscal year; and (iii) the benefits under Section 6(c)(2)(F) shall continue for an 18 month period provided that such benefits are exempt from Section 409A of the Code by reason of Treasury Regulation 1.409A-1(a)(5) or otherwise. In the event all or a portion of the benefits under Section 6(c)(2)(F) are subject to 409A of the Code, the Executive shall not be entitled to the benefits that are subject to Section 409A of the Code subsequent to the “applicable 2 ½ month period” (as such term is defined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(b)(4)(i)(A)).

(4) In the event this Agreement is terminated at the end of a Term after the Company provides the Executive with notice of non-renewal and the Executive remains employed until the end of the Term, the Executive shall be entitled to the following:

- (A) any accrued but unpaid Base Salary for services rendered to the date of termination;
  - (B) any accrued but unpaid expenses required to be reimbursed under this Agreement;
  - (C) a Severance Amount equal to six months of the then Base Salary;
  - (D) all equity awards previously granted to the Executive under the Company’s 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, 2018 Equity Incentive Plan or similar plan shall become fully vested;
  - (E) the Executive or his legally appointed guardian, as the case may be, shall have up to two years from the date of termination to exercise all such previously granted options, provided that in no event shall any option be exercisable beyond its Term; and
  - (F) any benefits (except perquisites) to which the Executive was entitled pursuant to Section 5(b) hereof shall continue to be paid or provided by the Company, as the case may be, for six months, subject to the terms of any applicable plan or insurance contract and applicable law provided that such benefits are not
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period" (as such term is defined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(b)(4)(i)(A)).

Provided, however, that the Executive shall only be entitled to receive each of the provisions of this Section 6(c)(4)(A)-(F) if the Executive is willing and able (i) to execute a new agreement providing terms and conditions substantially similar to those in this Agreement and (ii) to continue providing such services, and therefore, the Company's non-renewal of the Term will be considered an "involuntary separation from service" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(n).

(5) In the event of a termination for Good Reason, without Cause, or non-renewal by the Company, the payment of the Severance Amount shall be made at the same times as the Company pays compensation to its employees over the applicable mo the Co







directly or indirectly, from the Executive or the Company or its subsidiaries or affiliates and who has not breached any duty of confidentiality. As used herein, the term “Services” shall include all services offered for sale and marketed by the Company during the Term, which as of the Effective Date consist of operating two for-profit online and/or hybrid universities and nursing schools in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Services also includes any other services which the Company has taken concrete steps to offer for sale, but has not yet commenced selling or marketing, during or prior to the Term. Services also include any services disclosed in the Company’s latest Form 10-K, Form 10-Q and/or Form S-1 or S-3 (or successor form) filed with the SEC.

(b) Legitimate Business Interests. The Executive recognizes that the Company has legitimate business interests to protect and as a consequence, the Executive agrees to the restrictions contained in this Agreement because they further the Company’s legitimate business interests. These legitimate business interests include, but are not limited to (i) trade secrets; (ii) valuable confidential business, technical, and/or professional information that otherwise may not qualify as trade secrets, including, but not limited to, all Confidential Information; (iii) substantial, significant, or key relationships with specific prospective or existing Students or Professors, vendors or suppliers; (iv) Student goodwill associated with the Company’s business; and (v) specialized training relating to the Company’s technology, Services, methods, operations and procedures. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Section 9(b) shall be construed to impose restrictions greater than those imposed by other provisions of this Agreement.

(c) Confidentiality. During the Term of this Agreement and following termination of employment, for any reason, the Confidential Information shall be held by the Executive in the strictest confidence and shall not, without the prior express written consent of the Company, be disclosed to any person other than in connection with the Executive’s employment by the Company. The Executive further acknowledges that such Confidential Information as is acquired and used by the Company or its subsidiaries or affiliates is a special, valuable and unique asset. The Executive shall exercise all due and diligent precautions to protect the integrity of the Company’s Confidential Information and to keep it confidential whether it is in written form, on electronic media, oral, or otherwise. The Executive shall not copy any Confidential Information except to the extent necessary to his employment nor remove any Confidential Information or copies thereof from the Company’s premises except to the extent necessary to his employment. All records, files, materials and other Confidential Information obtained by the Executive in the course of his employment with the Company are confidential and proprietary and shall remain the exclusive property of the Company. The Executive shall not, except in connection with and as required by his performance of his duties under this Agreement, for any reason use for his own benefit or the benefit of any person or entity other than the Company or disclose any such Confidential Information to any person, firm, corporation, association or other entity for any reason or purpose whatsoever without the prior express written consent of an executive officer of the Company (excluding the Executive).

(d) References. References to the Company in this Section 9 shall include the Company’s subsidiaries and affiliates.





any such court and further irrevocably waive any claim that any such suit, action or proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum. Final judgment against the Executive or the Company in any such suit shall be conclusive and may be enforced in other jurisdictions by suit on the judgment, a certified or true copy of which shall be conclusive evidence of the fact and the amount of any liability of the Executive or the Company therein described, or by appropriate proceedings under any applicable treaty or otherwise.

11. Conflicts of Interest. While employed by the Company, the Executive shall not, unless approved by the Compensation Committee, directly or indirectly:

(a) participate as an individual in any way in the benefits of transactions with any of the Company's vendors, Students, or Professors, including, without limitation, having a financial interest in the Company's vendors, Students, or Professors, or making loans to, or receiving loans, from, the Company's suppliers, vendors, Students, or Professors;

(b) realize a personal gain or advantage from a transaction in which the Company has an interest or use information obtained in connection with the Executive's employment with the Company for the Executive's personal advantage or gain; or

(c) accept any offer to serve as an officer, director, partner, consultant, manager with, or to be employed in a professional, medical, technical, or managerial capacity by, a person or entity which does business with the Company.

12. Inventions, Ideas, Processes, and Designs. All inventions, ideas, processes, programs, software, and designs (including all improvements) (i) conceived or made by the Executive during the term of his employment with the Company shall be the property of the Company.



intellectual property rights so as to be less in any respect than the Company would have had in the absence of this Agreement. If applicable, the Executive shall provide as a schedule to this Agreement, a complete list of all inventions, ideas, processes, and designs, if any, patented or unpatented, copyrighted or otherwise, or non-copyrighted, including a brief description, which he made or conceived prior to his employment with the Company and which therefore are excluded from the scope of this Agreement. References to the Company in this Section 12 shall include the Company, its subsidiaries and affiliates.

13. Indebtedness. If, during the course of the Executive's employment under this Agreement, the Executive becomes indebted to the Company for any reason, the Company may, if it so elects, and if permitted by applicable law, set off any sum due to the Company from the Executive and

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21. Section and Paragraph Headings. The section and paragraph headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

22. Section 409A Compliance.

(a) This Agreement is intended to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Section 409A”), or an exemption thereunder. This Agreement shall be construed and administered in accordance with Section 409A. **W**

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(2) any reimbursement of an eligible expense shall be paid to the Executive on or before the last day of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the expense was incurred; and

(3) any right to reimbursements or in-kind benefits under this Agreement shall not be subject to liquidation or exchange for another benefit.

(d) j<sup>2</sup> or

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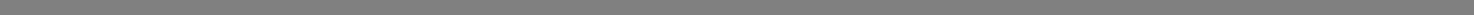
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409A and all related rules and regulations in order to preserve the payments and benefits provided hereunder without additional cost to either party.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company and the Executive have executed this Agreement as of the date and year first above written.

Aspen Group, Inc.

By: /s/ Robert Alessi  
Robert Alessi  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

Executive:

/s/ Michael Mathews  
Michael Mathews

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**Exhibit A**  
**General Release Agreement**

[Att<sup>or</sup> K