

KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL
Form DEF 14A
August 12, 2004
Table of Contents

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to (S) 240.14a-11(c) or (S) 240.14a-12

(Name of Registrant As Specified In Its Charter)

KORN/FERRY INTERNATIONAL

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement)

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No Fee required

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Notes:

Table of Contents

1800 Century Park East, Suite 900

Los Angeles, California 90067

August 12, 2004

Dear Stockholders:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Korn/Ferry International. The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City located at 225 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, California 90067.

At the Annual Meeting we will discuss the items of business discussed in the attached notice and give a report on our business operations.

We are delighted that you have chosen to invest in Korn/Ferry International and hope that, whether or not you attend the meeting, you will vote as soon as possible by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided. *Your vote is important*, and voting by written proxy will ensure your representation at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke your proxy in accordance with the procedures described in the proxy statement at any time prior to the time it is voted. If you attend the meeting, you may vote in person even if you previously mailed your proxy card.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Reilly
Chairman of the Board

and Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

1800 Century Park East, Suite 900

Los Angeles, California 90067

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

To Be Held On September 14, 2004

To the Stockholders:

On Tuesday, September 14, 2004, Korn/Ferry International (the Company) will hold its 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City located at 2025 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, California 90067. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Only stockholders who owned our common stock or 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010 at the close of business on the record date of July 19, 2004 can vote at this meeting or any adjournments that may take place. The purposes of the Annual Meeting are to:

1. Elect four directors to serve on the Board of Directors;
2. Approve an amendment to our Performance Award Plan (the Plan) to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan;
3. Approve an amendment to the Plan to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock that may be issued under the Plan;
4. Ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for the Company's 2005 fiscal year; and
5. Transact any other business properly presented at the meeting.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the approval of each of the four proposals outlined in the Proxy Statement accompanying this notice.

A quorum comprised of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock (including those shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010) on the record date must be present or represented for the transaction of business at the meeting. Accordingly, it is important that your shares be represented at

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

the meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy card and return it in the envelope provided. You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to the time it is voted by (1) notifying the Corporate Secretary in writing; (2) returning a later-dated proxy card; or (3) attending the meeting and voting in person.

This proxy statement is first being mailed to our stockholders on or about August 12, 2004. Please read the proxy materials carefully. Your vote is important and we appreciate your cooperation in considering and acting on the matters presented.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Peter L. Dunn
Corporate Secretary and

General Counsel

August 12, 2004

Los Angeles, California

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	4
<u>PROPOSAL NO. 2 AMENDMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN TO INCREASE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK RESERVED FOR ISSUANCE</u>	5
<u>PROPOSAL NO. 3 AMENDMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN TO ELIMINATE LIMITATION ON SHARES OF RESTRICTED STOCK</u>	9
<u>PROPOSAL NO. 4 RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS</u>	10
<u>THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	12
<u>Class 2005 Directors</u>	12
<u>Class 2006 Directors</u>	12
<u>Nominees for Class 2007 Directors</u>	13
<u>Statement on Corporate Governance</u>	14
<u>Directors Compensation</u>	16
<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management</u>	17
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	19
<u>Report of the Compensation and Personnel Committee</u>	19
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	21
<u>Employment Agreements</u>	23
<u>Aggregate Option Received</u>	25
<u>Aggregated Option Exercises and Year-End Option Values</u>	26
<u>Option Grants in Last Fiscal Year</u>	26
<u>Retirement Plan Table</u>	27
<u>Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans</u>	28
<u>Performance Graph</u>	29
<u>REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>	30
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	31
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	31
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	31
<u>Annual Report to Stockholders</u>	31
<u>Submission of Stockholder Proposals for Consideration and Nominations of Persons for Election as Directors at the Annual Meeting</u>	32
<u>Stockholder Proposals and Nominations for Next Year s Annual Meeting</u>	32
<u>APPENDIX A KORN/FERRY INTERNATIONAL SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN</u>	A-1
<u>APPENDIX B AMENDED AND RESTATED AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER</u>	B-1

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. Q: Why am I receiving this proxy statement and the other enclosed materials?

A: The Board is providing these materials to you in connection with, and soliciting proxies for use at, our 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will take place on September 14, 2004. As a stockholder on the record date, you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and you are requested to vote on each of the proposals described in this proxy statement. You do not need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote your shares.

2. Q: What information is included in this mailing?

A: The information included in this proxy statement relates to, among other things, the proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, the voting process and the compensation of the Company's directors and executive officers.

3. Q: What proposals will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

- A:
- (1) The election of directors to serve on the Board;
 - (2) The approval of an amendment to our Performance Award Plan (the Plan) to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan;
 - (3) The approval of an amendment to the Plan to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock that may be issued under the Plan; and
 - (4) The ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the Company's 2005 fiscal year.

4. Q: How does the Board recommend I vote on each of the proposals?

A: The Board recommends that you vote your shares FOR all of its nominees to the Board, FOR the approval of the two proposals relating to the Plan, and FOR the ratification of the appointment of the independent auditors.

5. Q: Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

A: Holders of the Company's common stock and the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock as of the record date, which is the close of business on July 19, 2004, are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

6. Q: How many votes are provided to each share of common stock?

A: Each share of the common stock of the Company outstanding as of the record date is entitled to one vote. Holders of the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock shall be entitled to cast such number of votes as such holders would be entitled to cast if the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and the Company's 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010 were converted into common stock as of the record date. As of the record date on July 19, 2004, 38,754,674 shares of the common stock of the Company were issued and outstanding and 5,860,393 shares of the common stock of the Company were issuable upon conversion of the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and the Company's 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010.

Table of Contents

7. Q: How do I vote?

A: You can vote either by completing, signing and dating each proxy card you received and returning it in the envelope provided or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Once you have submitted your proxy, you have the right to revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by:

- (1) notifying the Corporate Secretary in writing;
- (2) returning a later-dated proxy card; or
- (3) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

8. Q: Who will count the votes?

A: Representatives of Mellon Investor Services will count the votes and act as the inspector of election at the Annual Meeting.

9. Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

A: It means that your shares are registered differently and are in more than one account. Sign and return all proxy cards to ensure that all your shares are voted.

10. Q: What shares are covered by the enclosed proxy card(s)?

A: The shares on the enclosed proxy card(s) represent all shares owned by you as of the record date. These shares include shares (1) held directly in your name as the stockholder of record and (2) held for you as the beneficial owner through a stockbroker, bank or other nominee. If you do not return your proxy card(s) with respect to these shares, your shares may not be voted. If you own shares that are held in our 401(k) plan, you will receive a proxy card for those shares also. While the trustees of the 401(k) plan will vote those shares, you are requested to return that proxy card to advise the trustees of your wishes with respect to the matters to be voted on.

11. Q: What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner ?

A: Those terms refer to the following. You are a:

Stockholder of record, if your shares are registered directly in your name with the Company's transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services. You are considered, with respect to those shares, to be the stockholder of record, and these proxy materials have been sent directly to you by us. As the stockholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy to us or to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. We have enclosed a proxy card for you to use.

Beneficial owner, if your shares are held in a stock brokerage account, including an Individual Retirement Account, or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered to be the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by your broker or nominee, who is considered, with respect to those shares, to be the stockholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or nominee on how to vote (your broker or nominee has enclosed a voting instruction card for you to use) and you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, because you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting.

12. Q: What if a beneficial owner does not provide the stockholder of record with voting instructions for a particular proposal?

A: If you are a beneficial owner and you do not provide the stockholder of record with voting instructions for a particular proposal, your shares may constitute broker non-votes, as described below, with respect to that proposal.

Table of Contents

13. Q: What are broker non-votes ?

A: Broker non-votes are shares held by a broker or nominee with respect to which the broker or nominee does not have discretionary power to vote on a particular proposal or with respect to which instructions were never received from the beneficial owner. Shares which constitute broker non-votes with respect to a particular proposal will not be considered present and entitled to vote on that proposal at the Annual Meeting, even though the same shares will be considered present for quorum purposes and may be entitled to vote on other proposals.

14. Q: How are votes counted?

A: In the election of directors, you may vote FOR all of the nominees or your vote may be WITHHELD with respect to one or more of the nominees. For the other proposals, you may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN. If you sign your proxy card or broker voting instruction card without voting FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN for any of the proposals, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board. With respect to Proposals No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4, abstentions will be equivalent to AGAINST votes, while broker non-votes will be disregarded and will have no effect on the approval or rejection of the proposals.

15. Q: What is the voting requirement to approve each proposal?

A: In order to conduct business at the Annual Meeting, a quorum, as described below, must be established. In the election of directors, the Board's nominees will become directors so long as they receive a plurality of FOR votes; however, if any additional nominees for director are properly brought before the stockholders for consideration, only the nominees who receive the highest number of FOR votes will become directors. Approval of Proposals No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 will require affirmative FOR votes from a majority of those shares present (either in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

16. Q: What is a quorum ?

A: A quorum is a majority in voting power of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote (including those shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010). A quorum must be present or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting for business to be conducted. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted as present for quorum purposes.

17. Q: What happens if additional matters (other than the proposals described in this proxy statement) are presented at the Annual Meeting?

A: The Board is not aware of any additional matters to be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting; however, if any additional matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, your signed proxy card gives authority to Paul C. Reilly and Gary D. Burnison to vote on those matters in their discretion.

18. Q: How much did this proxy solicitation cost?

A: We hired Mellon Investor Services and D.F. King & Co., Inc. to assist in the distribution of proxy materials and solicitation of votes for approximately \$7,000 and \$8,500 and an additional fee of \$5.00 per incoming and outgoing telephone contact to beneficial owners, respectively. The fees include out of pocket expenses. We also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to beneficial owners.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (the Board) is divided into three classes, with one class elected at each Annual Meeting. Directors of each class are elected to serve for three year terms. At this Annual Meeting we will elect four directors and the Board for the coming year will be composed of eleven directors. The Board's nominees for election as directors will be elected to serve as Class 2007 Directors for a term of three years. The nominees for election at the Annual Meeting to serve as Class 2007 Directors are James E. Barlett, Sakie T. Fukushima, David L. Lowe and Edward D. Miller. Detailed information regarding each of these nominees is provided on pages 13-14 of this proxy statement. We do not expect any of the nominees to become unavailable to stand for election, but, should this happen, the Board will designate a substitute for each unavailable nominee. Proxies voting for any unavailable nominee will be cast for that nominee's substitute. Each of the nominees has consented to be named as a nominee in this proxy statement. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named.

Required Vote

The Board's nominees will become directors so long as they receive a plurality of FOR votes; however, if any additional nominees for director are properly brought before the stockholders for consideration, only the nominees who receive the highest number of FOR votes will become directors.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote FOR each of the nominees named above for election as a director. Proxies will be voted FOR each of the nominees named above unless you otherwise specify on your proxy card.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL NO. 2 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN TO INCREASE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK RESERVED FOR ISSUANCE

General

The Company's Performance Award Plan (the "Plan") was originally adopted by the Board and approved by the Company's stockholders in August 1998. From time to time the Board and stockholders have approved amendments to the Plan to increase the numbers of shares reserved for issuance thereunder and to change certain other provisions. On June 8, 2004, the Board of Directors adopted, subject to stockholder approval, an amendment to increase the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan from 13,000,000 to 16,000,000 shares of common stock. As of July 19, 2004, of the 13,000,000 shares reserved for issuance under the Plan, 9,952,082 shares have been issued and subject to outstanding awards, 1,632,017 options to purchase common stock have been exercised, and 1,415,901 shares remain available for future issuance.

The Board believes it would be in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders to amend the Plan to increase the number of shares reserved for issuance thereunder. Approval of the actions contemplated in this proposal will enable us to further fulfill the purpose of the Plan and provide us with greater flexibility in making awards which we continue to believe is an important component of compensation and is necessary to attract and retain outstanding employees.

The Company operates in an industry in which a sustainable source of equity compensation is critical to growth and success. Unlike most public companies that invest heavily in research and development and infrastructure, the Company at its core relies significantly on human capital. While we invest in technology and other initiatives, we place the majority of our business development investment into our personnel. We must be able to recruit and retain qualified search personnel with equity based compensation.

Summary of the Performance Award Plan

The principal provisions of the Plan are summarized below. This summary is not a complete description of all the Plan's provisions, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Plan (as amended and restated), which is attached to this Proxy Statement as Appendix A. Capitalized terms not defined in the summary have the meaning set forth in the Plan.

Purpose. The purpose of the Plan is to promote the Company's success and the interests of the Company's stockholders by attracting, motivating, retaining and rewarding directors, officers, employees and other eligible persons with awards and incentives for high levels of individual performance and improved financial performance of the Company; to attract, motivate and retain experienced and knowledgeable independent directors through the benefits provided under the Plan; and to further align their respective interests with those of the Company's stockholders through awards of stock-based incentives. The granting of performance awards pursuant to the Plan has been and will continue to be an important part of the compensation of the Company's employees.

Administration. The Plan will be administered by the Board of Directors or a committee appointed by the Board. The Board, or if applicable, the committee will have broad authority to (i) designate recipients of discretionary awards, (ii) determine or modify (subject to any required consent) the terms and provisions of awards, including the price, vesting provisions, terms of exercise and expiration dates, (iii) approve the form of award agreements, (iv) determine specific objectives and performance criteria with respect to performance awards, and (v) construe and

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

interpret the Plan. The Board, or if applicable, the committee will have the discretion to accelerate or extend the exercisability or term and establish the events of termination or reversion of outstanding awards.

New Plan Benefits. The amount of each participant's award for the 2005 fiscal year (which runs from May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005) will be determined based on the discretion of the Board, or if applicable,

Table of Contents

the committee. As a result, the Company cannot determine the number or type of awards that will be granted to any participant for the 2005 fiscal year.

Eligibility. Officers (whether or not a director), employees, directors and other eligible persons selected by the Board, or if applicable, the committee, are eligible to participate in the Plan. As of the date hereof, approximately 1,334 people are eligible to participate in the Plan.

Number of Shares. The maximum number of shares subject to those options and SARs that are granted during any one calendar year to any one individual is limited to 700,000 shares while the maximum number of shares subject to all awards (either performance or otherwise) that may be granted to an individual in the aggregate in any one calendar year is 1,050,000. A non-employee director may not receive awards in respect of more than 50,000 shares in the aggregate in any twelve month period. As of July 19, 2004, the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange of a share of the Company's common stock was \$18.88.

Types of Awards. Awards under the Plan may be in the form of nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights (SARs), restricted stock, or performance-based awards. Awards may be granted individually or in combination with other awards. Any cash bonuses and other performance awards under the Plan will depend upon the extent to which performance goals set by the committee consisting solely of two or more outside directors are met during the performance period.

Stock Options. An option represents the right to buy common stock of the Company at an exercise price specified in the applicable option agreement. Each option granted will be designated by the Board, or if applicable, the committee, in the applicable option agreement, as either an incentive stock option or a nonqualified stock option. No incentive stock option may be granted at a price that is less than the fair market value of the common stock (110% of fair market value of common stock of the Company for certain participants) on the date of grant. Nonqualified stock options and other awards may be granted at prices below the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant.

Stock Appreciation Rights. A stock appreciation right is a right to receive a number of shares of common stock or an amount of cash, or a combination of shares and cash, the aggregate amount or value of which is determined by reference to a change in the fair market value of the common stock. Unless the applicable award agreement or the Board, or if applicable, the committee, otherwise provides, a stock appreciation right related to another award will be exercisable at such time or times, and to the extent, that the related award will be exercisable. A stock appreciation right granted independently of any other award will be exercisable pursuant to the terms of the award agreement. To the extent that a stock appreciation right is exercised, only the actual number of delivered shares of common stock will be charged against the maximum amount of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards under the Plan. The number of shares subject to the stock appreciation right and the related option will, however, be reduced by the number of underlying shares as to which the exercise related, unless the award agreement otherwise provides.

Restricted Stock Awards. Restricted stock awards can be issued for nominal or the minimum lawful consideration. Typically, the participant may vote restricted stock, but any dividend on restricted shares will be held in escrow subject to forfeiture until the shares have vested. No more than 700,000 shares are available for certain restricted stock awards, but this limit does not apply to restricted stock awards issued principally for past services, awards issued in respect of deferred compensation and performance awards. Note that if Proposal No. 3 is approved, this limitation will be eliminated.

Performance-Based Awards; Performance Goals. In addition to options and SARs, cash awards or equity based awards, which depend on the achievement of pre-established performance goals within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, may be granted to the Company's officers under the Plan. The specific performance goals will be set by a qualified committee of the Board of Directors created for

these purposes and the specific targets will be set by such committee when their attainment is substantially uncertain.

Table of Contents

The permitted performance goals under the Plan may be based on the performance of the Company on a consolidated, segment, subsidiary or division basis, with revenue growth, net earnings (before or after taxes or before or after interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization), cash flow, return on equity, return on assets or return on net investment, cost containment or reduction, or any combination thereof. The applicable performance measurement period may not be less than one nor more than ten years, or five years in respect of such awards payable only in cash. Before any performance-based award is paid, the committee must certify that the specific performance goals and any other material terms of the awards are satisfied.

In no event may more than 700,000 share-based performance awards be granted in any calendar year to a single individual. With respect to cash-based performance awards, no more than \$2.5 million per year, per performance cycle may be awarded to any one eligible individual. No more than one performance cycle may begin in any one year with respect to cash-based performance awards.

Amendment of the Plan, Termination and Term. The Board of Directors has the authority to amend, suspend or discontinue the Plan at any time, but no such action will affect any outstanding award in any manner materially adverse to a participant without the consent of the participant. The Plan may be amended by the Board of Directors without stockholder approval unless such approval is required by applicable law. The Plan will remain in existence as to all outstanding awards until such awards are exercised or terminated. In general, the maximum term of options, SARs and other rights to acquire common stock under the Plan is ten years after the initial date of award. No award can be made after August 4, 2008.

Transfer Restrictions. Awards under the Plan are generally nontransferable by the holder of the award. During the holder's lifetime, rights under the Plan generally will be exercisable only by the holder, subject to such exceptions as may be authorized by the Board, or if applicable, the committee, in accordance with the Plan.

Automatic Grants to Non-Employee Directors. Under the Plan, each director who is not an officer or employee and who is or thereafter becomes a director will be automatically granted a nonqualified stock option to purchase 2,500 shares of common stock when the person takes office, at an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the common stock on that date. In addition, on the day of each annual stockholders meeting, each then-continuing non-employee director will be granted a nonqualified stock option to purchase 2,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the common stock at the close of trading on that date. Non-employee directors may also be granted discretionary awards. All automatically granted non-employee director stock options will have a ten-year term and will be immediately exercisable.

Change in Control. The Board amended the definition of "Change in Control Event", as described in this section. The Plan, as amended and restated, which is attached to this Proxy Statement as Appendix A incorporates this amendment. A Change in Control Event will accelerate the vesting of an Award (as defined in the Plan) (a) for an employee participant who is terminated for anything other than Termination for Cause (as defined in the Plan) and (b) if the Committee (as defined in the Plan) acts to cause such an acceleration. A "Change in Control Event" is defined generally to include: (a) the acquisition of more than 50% of the Company's outstanding voting securities by a person unrelated to the Company and its affiliates, (b) stockholder approval of a transfer of substantially all of the Company's assets, a merger, consolidation or reorganization (other than with an affiliate) whereby stockholders hold or receive less than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the resulting entity after such event, (c) stockholder approval of the dissolution or liquidation of the Company, (d) certain changes in a majority of the membership of the Board of Directors over a period of two years or less, or (e) such other events as the Board may from time to time specify. The Committee may also provide for alternative settlements (including cash payments), the assumption or substitution of Awards or other adjustments in the Change in Control context or in the context of any other reorganization of the Company.

Repricing/Cancellation and Regrant/Waiver of Restrictions. The committee from time to time may authorize, generally or in specific cases only, for the benefit of any eligible person, any adjustment in the

Table of Contents

exercise or purchase price, the vesting schedule, the number of shares subject to, the restrictions upon or the term of, an option, SAR or other award granted under the Plan by cancellation of an outstanding award and a subsequent regranting of an award, by amendment, by substitution of an outstanding award, by waiver or by other legally valid means. Such amendment or other action may result among other changes in an exercise or purchase price that is higher or lower than the exercise, base or purchase price of the original or prior award, provide for a greater or lesser number of shares subject to the award, or provide for a longer or shorter vesting or exercise period.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Implications

The following is a brief description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences generally arising with respect to the grant of options or stock appreciation rights.

The grant of an option or stock appreciation right will create no tax consequences for the recipient or the Company. A recipient will not recognize taxable income upon exercising an incentive stock option (except that the alternative minimum tax may apply). Upon exercising an option (other than an incentive stock option) or stock appreciation right, the recipient generally will recognize ordinary income equal to the excess of the fair market value of the freely transferable and nonforfeitable shares (and/or cash or other property) acquired on the date of exercise over the exercise price.

Upon a disposition of shares acquired upon exercise of an incentive stock option before the end of the applicable incentive stock option holding periods, the recipient generally will recognize ordinary income equal to the lesser of (i) the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the date of exercise of the incentive stock option over the exercise price, or (ii) the amount realized upon the disposition of the incentive stock option shares over the exercise price. Otherwise, a recipient's disposition of shares acquired upon the exercise of an option (including an incentive stock option for which the incentive stock option holding periods are met) or stock appreciation right generally will result in short-term or long-term (which will always be the case for incentive stock options if the holding periods are met) capital gain or loss measured by the difference between the sale price and the recipient's tax basis in such shares (the tax basis in option shares generally being the exercise price plus any amount recognized as ordinary income in connection with the exercise of the option).

The Company generally will be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the amount recognized as ordinary income by the recipient in connection with the exercise of an option or stock appreciation right. The Company generally is not entitled to a tax deduction with respect to any amount that represents a capital gain to a recipient or that represents compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to covered employees that is not qualified performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, the Company will not be entitled to any tax deduction with respect to an incentive stock option if the recipient holds the shares for the incentive stock option holding periods prior to disposition of the shares and may not be entitled to any deduction with respect to certain options or stock appreciation rights that may be exercised by covered employees.

Vote Required

Approval of the amendment to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan will require affirmative FOR votes from a majority of those shares present, either in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board unanimously recommends a vote FOR the approval of this Proposal No. 2 relating to the Plan. Proxies solicited by the Board will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise on their proxy cards.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL NO. 3 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN TO ELIMINATE LIMITATION ON SHARES OF RESTRICTED STOCK

General

The Company's Performance Award Plan permits the Company to grant awards under the Plan in the form of nonqualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or performance-based awards. Currently, the number of shares of restricted stock available under the Plan is limited to 700,000 shares, subject to exceptions for restricted stock awards based on past service, deferred compensation and performance awards. Restricted stock awards can be issued for nominal or the minimum lawful consideration. Typically, the recipient of restricted stock may vote the shares, but any dividend issued on restricted shares will be held in escrow subject to forfeiture until the shares have vested. For a summary of the material terms of the Plan, please refer to Proposal No. 2 above.

In June 2004, the Board adopted, subject to stockholder approval, an amendment to the Plan, which would eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock that may be issued under the Plan. If the proposed amendment is approved, the Company would be permitted to issue any number of shares of restricted stock under the Plan, subject to the limitation on the overall number of shares reserved for issuance under the Plan.

The Board believes it would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders to amend the Plan to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock available under the Plan. As a professional services company that is heavily dependent on attracting and retaining our personnel, the Company's issuance of equity-based incentives is an integral part of its recruitment, retention and ongoing compensation strategy. The current limitation of 700,000 shares of restricted stock means that the vast majority of these equity-based incentives have been stock options.

Recently, stock option grants and the accounting treatment for stock options have come under increased scrutiny. This scrutiny may result in regulatory changes on the accounting treatment and a shift in the way stock options are perceived by institutional stockholders and the market. The Company has proposed an amendment to the Plan to eliminate the distinction in the Plan between stock options and shares of restricted stock because we believe the elimination of this distinction will afford the Company greater flexibility in responding to possible new accounting rules and evolving equity compensation practices. We believe this increased flexibility with respect to issuance of awards under the Plan will enable the Company to continue to attract and retain outstanding employees, and will further align the interests of employees with the interests of stockholders.

Vote Required

Approval of the amendment to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock that may be issued under the Plan will require affirmative FOR votes from a majority of those shares present, either in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board unanimously recommends a vote FOR the approval of this Proposal No. 3 relating to the Plan. Proxies solicited by the Board will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise on their proxy cards.

Table of Contents

**PROPOSAL NO. 4 RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP
AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The Audit Committee has approved the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent auditors for fiscal 2005. Ernst & Young LLP has served as the Company's independent auditors since March 2002. They have unrestricted access to the Audit Committee to discuss audit findings and other financial matters. Neither the Company's certificate of incorporation nor bylaws requires that the stockholders ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent auditors. We are doing so because we believe it is a matter of good corporate practice. If the Company's stockholders do not ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Ernst & Young LLP, but may, nonetheless, retain such independent auditors. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in their discretion may change the appointment at any time during the year if they determine that such change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. Representatives of Ernst & Young will attend the Annual Meeting to answer appropriate questions and may also make a statement if they so desire.

The following table sets forth fees for services Ernst & Young LLP provided during fiscal years 2003 and 2004:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Audit fees(1)	\$ 862,900	\$ 874,088
Audit-related fees(2)	\$ 34,500	\$ 109,755
Tax fees(3)	\$ 411,600	\$ 390,919
All other fees(4)	0	0
Total	\$ 1,309,000	\$ 1,374,762

- (1) Represents fees for audit services, including fees associated with the annual audit, the reviews of the Company's quarterly financial statements, and statutory audits required internationally.
- (2) Represents fees for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements or that are traditionally performed by the independent auditor that are not included in Audit Fees consists of \$16,500 for audit related services in connection with the Company's employee benefit plans and \$18,000 for other audit-related consultation services.
- (3) Represents fees for tax compliance, planning and advice. These services included tax return compliance.
- (4) Represents fees for all other services, including consulting services.

Audit Committee's Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditor. As part of this responsibility, the Audit Committee is required to pre-approve the audit and non-audit services performed by the independent auditor in order to assure that they do not impair the auditor's independence from the Company. Proposed services either may be pre-approved without consideration of specific case by case services by the Audit Committee or require the specific pre-approval of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee believes that the combination of these two approaches will result in an effective and efficient procedure to pre-approve services performed by the independent auditor. The Audit Committee will consider whether such services are consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence. The Audit Committee will also consider whether the independent auditor is best positioned to provide the most effective and efficient service, for reasons such as its familiarity with the Company's business, people, culture, accounting systems, risk profile and other factors, and whether the service might enhance the Company's ability to manage or control risk or improve audit quality. All such factors will be considered as a whole, and no one factor is determinative.

Table of Contents

All requests or applications for services to be provided by the independent auditor that do not require specific approval by the Audit Committee will be submitted to the Controller and must include a detailed description of services to be rendered. The Controller will determine whether such services are included within the list of services that have received the general pre-approval of the Audit Committee. Requests or applications to provide services that require specific approval by the Audit Committee will be submitted to the Audit Committee by both the independent auditor and the Chief Financial Officer and must include a joint statement as to whether, in their view, the request or application is consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence.

Required Vote

Ratification of the auditors appointed by the Board will require affirmative **FOR** votes from a majority of those shares present, either in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP's appointment as independent auditors for fiscal 2005. Proxies solicited by the Board will be so voted unless stockholders specify otherwise on their proxy cards.**

Table of Contents**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The members of the Board of Directors are grouped into three classes: Class 2005 Directors will serve until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2005; Class 2006 Directors will serve until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2006; and Class 2007 Directors will serve until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2007.

Class 2005 Directors

The following table sets forth information regarding the Class 2005 Directors, who will serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2005.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
Frank V. Cahouet	72	Mr. Cahouet retired as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mellon Financial Corporation in January 1998, positions which he had held since 1987. Mr. Cahouet is a director and Chairman of the audit committee of Teledyne Technologies, Inc. and a director of Avery Dennison Corporation and Saint-Gobain Corporation. Mr. Cahouet is also a trustee of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.	1999
Spencer C. Fleischer	50	Mr. Fleischer has been Vice Chairman of Friedman Fleischer & Lowe, a private equity firm, since it was founded in 1998. Mr. Fleischer was previously a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, which he joined in 1979 and where he was most recently head of investment banking in Asia. He is a director of Advanced Career Technologies, Inc. and SteelPoint Technologies, Inc.	2002
Gerhard Schulmeyer	66	Mr. Schulmeyer served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Corporation from 1999 until 2001. From 1994 through 1998, Mr. Schulmeyer was President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Nixdorf, Munich/Paderborn. Mr. Schulmeyer is also a director of Alcan Aluminum Ltd., Zurich Financial Services and Ingram Micro Inc. Mr. Schulmeyer is currently a Professor at MIT Sloan School of Management.	1999

Class 2006 Directors

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Class 2006 Directors, who will serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2006.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
Patti S. Hart	48	Ms. Hart has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pinnacle Systems, Inc. since March 2004. She was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Excite@Home, from April 2001 to March 2002. Excite@Home filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal	2000

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Bankruptcy Code in September 2001. Prior to joining Excite@Home, Ms. Hart served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Telocity, Inc., from June 1999 until April 2001. From February 1994 to April 1999, she served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Sprint's Long Distance Division. Ms. Hart is also a director of Plantronics.

Table of Contents

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
Paul C. Reilly	50	Mr. Reilly was elected to the position of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer in June 2001. Prior to joining Korn/Ferry International, Mr. Reilly was Chief Executive Officer of KPMG International from October 1998. Prior to being named to that position, Mr. Reilly served as Vice Chairman Financial Services of KPMG L.L.P., the United States member firm of KPMG International. Mr. Reilly joined KPMG International as a partner in 1987.	2001
Ihno Schneevoigt	66	Dr. Schneevoigt was a member of the management boards and a Human Resources Director at Allianz Verischerungs AG and Allianz Lebensversicherung AG from January 1992 to December 2003. He also serves on the supervisory boards of the European School of Management and Technology, Celesio AG, Strober Out of Home Media AG, and DSM GmbH. Dr. Schneevoigt was named to our board in March 2004.	2004
Kenneth Whipple	69	Mr. Whipple is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CMS Energy Corporation. He has been a director of CMS Energy Corporation since 1993. Mr. Whipple served as Executive Vice President of Ford Motor Company from 1988 to 1999. He served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ford Motor Credit Company from 1997 to 1999. He previously served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ford of Europe, Inc. from 1986 to 1988. Mr. Whipple is currently a director and member of the Audit Committee at AB Volvo and a director of 14 J.P. Morgan Chase mutual funds. Mr. Whipple was named to our board in March 2004.	2004

Nominees for Class 2007 Directors

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Class 2007 Directors, who, if elected at the 2004 Annual Meeting, will serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2007.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
James E. Barlett	60	Mr. Barlett was Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Galileo International until October 2001. From 1994 to 1997, Mr. Barlett was President and Chief Executive Officer of Galileo International. Mr. Barlett is also Vice Chairman of TeleTech Holdings, Inc.	1999
Sakie T. Fukushima	53	Ms. Fukushima has been a Vice President since 1993 and Regional Managing Director for Japan since September 2000. She currently serves on the Company's Asia Pacific Regional Operating Committee. Ms. Fukushima joined us in 1991. Ms. Fukushima is a director of Sony Corporation and has been a member of its audit committee since June 2003 and a director of Kao Corporation since July 2002.	1995
David L. Lowe	44	Mr. Lowe has been Vice Chairman of Friedman Fleischer & Lowe, a private equity firm, since it was founded in 1998. Prior to this, he served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of ADAC Laboratories, a medical diagnostic imaging company. Previously, he worked as a consultant at Bain & Company. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Advanced Career Technologies, Inc. and a director of SteelPoint Technologies, Inc. He is also on the board of the National Children's Cancer Society.	2002

Table of Contents

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience</u>	<u>Director Since</u>
Edward D. Miller	63	Mr. Miller was the President and Chief Executive Officer of AXA Financial, Inc. from August 1997 through May 2001. He served as a member of the supervisory board and as a senior advisor to the Chief Executive of AXA Group from June 2001 through April 2003. He also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AXA Financial, Inc.'s principal subsidiary, AXA Client Solutions, and as a director of AXA Financial, Equitable Life, Alliance Capital and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Mr. Miller is currently a director of KeySpan Corporation, American Express Company and Topps Company, Incorporated. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the United Way of Tri-State and is Chairman of the Board of Phoenix House.	2002

Statement on Corporate Governance

The Board held five meetings during fiscal 2004, and all of the directors attended at least 75% of the Board meetings and the meetings of committees of which they were members.

The Board, using criteria that incorporate the director independence criteria included in the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), has determined that each of the directors on the Board, except for Mr. Paul Reilly and Ms. Sakie Fukushima, who are both employee-directors, and each of the directors standing for re-election, except for Ms. Fukushima, is independent under the NYSE listing standards.

Non-management directors meet regularly in executive sessions outside the presence of management. An executive session is generally held in conjunction with each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Non-management directors are directors who are not officers of the Company but could otherwise include directors, if any, who are not independent by virtue of the existence of a material relationship with the Company. Executive sessions are led by a director, who is elected annually by the Board. Communications to the non-employee directors may be sent to non-employee directors c/o Corporate Secretary, Korn/Ferry, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 900, Los Angeles, California 90067

Directors are expected to attend the annual meetings of stockholders. Last year all directors attended the meeting.

Although the full Board considers all major decisions, the bylaws permit the Board to have the following standing committees to more fully address certain areas of importance: an Audit Committee, a Compensation and Personnel Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The members of the standing committees are:

Name	Nominating and		
	Audit	Compensation and Personnel	Corporate Governance
James E. Barlett	X		X(Chair)
Frank V. Cahouet	X(Chair)	X	
Patti S. Hart			X
David L. Lowe		X	
Edward D. Miller		X(Chair)	
Gerhard Schulmeyer		X	X

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee makes recommendations concerning selection, evaluation and, if appropriate, the replacement of independent auditors, independent auditors qualifications and independence,

Table of Contents

reviews the plans and results of the audit engagement with the independent auditors, approves professional services provided by the independent auditors and financial reporting principles and policies, considers the range of audit and non-audit fees, reviews the adequacy of the Company's internal accounting controls and ensures the integrity of financial information supplied to stockholders. The Audit Committee is also available to receive reports, suggestions, questions and recommendations from the independent auditors, the Chief Financial Officer and the General Counsel. It also confers with those parties in order to assure the sufficiency and effectiveness of the programs being followed by corporate officers in the area of compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, business conduct and conflicts of interest. The Audit Committee is composed entirely of outside directors and met four times in fiscal 2004. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee. The Board, in its business judgment, has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent as required by the applicable listing standards of the NYSE. The Board has determined that Messrs. Barlett, Cahouet and Whipple qualify as audit committee financial experts as that term is defined in Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Mr. Kenneth Whipple serves on the audit committee of AB Volvo, a public company. Mr. Frank Cahouet serves on the audit committee of Teledyne Technologies, Inc, a public company. The Board has determined, however, that Messrs. Cahouet's and Whipple's simultaneous service on multiple audit committees would not impair their ability to serve effectively on the Company's Audit Committee.

In June 2004, the Board adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is available on the Company's website at www.kornferry.com.

Compensation and Personnel Committee. The Compensation and Personnel Committee is comprised entirely of directors who have never served as officers of the Company. The Compensation and Personnel Committee (a) approves and oversees compensation programs of the Company, including incentive and stock option programs provided to members of the Company's senior management group, including all named executive officers, and (b) approves or recommends to the Board, as required, specific compensation actions, including salary adjustments, annual cash bonuses, stock option grants and employment contracts for the Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Company's senior officer group. The Compensation and Personnel Committee met eight times during fiscal 2004. The Board, in its business judgment, has determined that all members of the Compensation and Personnel Committee are independent as required by the applicable listing standards of the NYSE.

In June 2004, the Board adopted a written charter for the Compensation and Personnel Committee, which is available on the Company's website at www.kornferry.com.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommends criteria to the Board for the selection of nominees to the Board, evaluates all proposed nominees, recommends nominees to the Board to fill vacancies on the Board, and, prior to each Annual Meeting of Stockholders, recommends to the Board a slate of nominees for election to the Board by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also seeks possible nominees for the Board and otherwise serves to aid in attracting qualified nominees to be elected to the Board. In evaluating nominations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers a variety of criteria, including business experience and skills, independence, judgment, integrity, the ability to commit sufficient time and attention to Board activities and the absence of potential conflicts with the Company's interests. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not consider nominees recommended by the stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is composed entirely of outside directors. The Board, in its business judgment has determined that all members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent as independence is defined by the applicable listing standards of the NYSE. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met four times in fiscal 2004.

Table of Contents

In June 2004, the Board adopted a written charter for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, Corporate Governance Guidelines and a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for Employees, Officers and Directors, which are available on the Company's website at www.kornferry.com.

Directors Compensation

Directors who are also employees or officers do not receive any additional compensation for their service on the Board. Non-employee directors are automatically granted, under the Company's Performance Award Plan, a nonqualified stock option to purchase shares of common stock with a value of \$28,000 and an additional \$20,000 either in cash or in stock options as an annual retainer. One fourth of the annual amount is granted or paid quarterly. Non-employee directors also receive \$1,200 in cash for each regular or special meeting attended and \$1,200 in cash for telephonic meetings. In addition, committee chairs receive \$4,000 in cash annually. All directors are reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with their duties as directors.

Directors who are not officers or employees are eligible to receive annual stock option grants under the Company's Plan. Under the Plan, a non-employee director is automatically granted a nonqualified stock option to purchase 2,500 shares of common stock when the person takes office, at an exercise price equal to the price of the common stock at the close of trading on that date. In addition, on the day of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in each calendar year, beginning with the year after they are first elected and continuing for each subsequent year during the term of the Plan, each continuing non-employee director is granted a nonqualified stock option to purchase 2,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price equal to the market price of the common stock at the close of trading on that date. Non-employee directors may also be granted discretionary awards. All automatically granted non-employee director stock options will have a ten-year term and will be immediately exercisable. If a non-employee director's services are terminated for any reason, any automatically granted stock options held by the non-employee director that are exercisable will remain exercisable for sixty months after such termination of service or until the expiration of the option term, whichever occurs first. Automatically-granted options are subject to the same adjustment, assumption, conversion and similar provisions that apply to awards generally, except that in the case of a change of control, any changes or Board or committee actions relating to the non-employee director options (1) must be effected through a stockholder approved reorganization agreement or otherwise be consistent with the effect on options held by persons other than executive officers and directors of the Company and (2) must be consistent in respect of the underlying shares with the effect on stockholders generally. Any outstanding automatic option grant that is not exercised prior to a change in control event in which we do not survive will terminate, unless the option is assumed or replaced by the surviving corporation.

Table of Contents**Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management**

The following table sets forth, as of July 19, 2004, the names and holdings of each director and each nominee for director, the names and holdings of each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table (the named executive officers), and the holdings of all directors, nominees and executive officers as a group. The following table also sets forth the names of those persons known to us to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Company's common stock.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount Beneficially Owned and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class
Paul C. Reilly	737,515(2)	*
James E. Barlett	21,013(3)	*
Frank V. Cahouet	43,513(4)	*
Spencer C. Fleischer	4,200,611(15)	10.84%
Sakie T. Fukushima	196,297(5)	*
Patti S. Hart	19,013(6)	*
David L. Lowe	4,200,611(15)	10.84%
Edward D. Miller	23,876(7)	*
Ihno Schneevoigt	3,082(8)	*
Gerhard Schulmeyer	21,013(9)	*
Kenneth Whipple	3,082(10)	*
Gary D. Burnison	109,423(11)	*
Gary C. Hourihan	181,196(12)	*
Robert H. McNabb	83,256(13)	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (14 persons)	5,658,966(14)	14.60%
Friedman Fleischer & Lowe Capital Partners, L.P. and FFL Executive Partners, L.P. c/o Friedman Fleischer & Lowe GP, LLC One Maritime Plaza, Suite 1000 San Francisco, CA 94111	4,184,535(15)	10.80%
SPO Partners II, L.P., SPO Advisory Partners, L.P., SPO Advisory Corp., John M. Scully, William E. Oberndorf and William J. Patterson c/o SPO Partners & Co. 591 Redwood Highway, Suite 3215 Mill Valley, CA 94941	4,366,300(16)	11.27%
State of Wisconsin Investment Board P.O. Box 7842 Madison, WI 53707	1,989,200(17)	5.13%

* Designates ownership of less than 1% of the Company's outstanding common shares.

(1) Other than with respect to the shares held under the 401(k) plan and the options under the Performance Award Plan, each person has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares shown unless otherwise indicated. Shares of common stock acquired under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan were purchased on December 31, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

(2) Holding includes 213,819 shares of restricted stock as to which Mr. Reilly has voting power and right to acquire beneficial ownership of 450,001 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.

Table of Contents

- (3) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 21,013 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (4) Holding includes 22,500 shares of common stock held by the Frank V. Cahouet Revocable Trust dated November 2, 1993 and right to acquire beneficial ownership of 21,013 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (5) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 96,305 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (6) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 19,013 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (7) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 16,076 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (8) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 3,082 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (9) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 21,013 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (10) Holding includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 3,082 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (11) Holding includes 46,079 shares of restricted stock as to which Mr. Burnison has voting power and right to acquire beneficial ownership of 43,334 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (12) Holding includes 34,569 shares of restricted stock as to which Mr. Hourihan has voting power and right to acquire beneficial ownership of 90,338 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (13) Holding includes 25,700 shares of restricted stock as to which Mr. McNabb has voting power and right to acquire beneficial ownership of 38,335 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (14) Total holding as a group includes 22,500 shares of common stock held by the Frank V. Cahouet Revocable Trust dated November 2, 1993, securities convertible into or exercisable for 4,184,535 shares of common stock held by Friedman Fleischer & Lowe Capital Partners, L.P. and FFL Executive Partners, L.P., 320,167 shares of restricted stock which have voting power and right to acquire beneficial ownership of a total 854,757 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan.
- (15) This information was obtained from the Schedule 13D/A filed on June 30, 2004. Freidman Fleischer & Lowe Capital Partners, L.P. holding includes 3,072,639 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of convertible notes, 768,208 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of preferred stock and 269,335 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants. FFL Executive Partners, L.P. holding includes 55,584 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of convertible notes, 13,897 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of preferred stock and 4,872 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of warrants. The investment managers are Tully M. Friedman, Spencer C. Fleischer and David L. Lowe. The holdings of Spencer C. Fleischer and David L.

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Lowe, each as individual directors, also includes right to acquire beneficial ownership of 16,076 shares of common stock within 60 days through the exercise of options granted under the Performance Award Plan. Both Spencer C. Fleischer and David L. Lowe disclaim beneficial ownership of such stock options for the purpose of Section 16 or for any other purposes.

- (16) Shares are owned of record by several SPO affiliates. The controlling persons of SPO Advisory Corp. and its affiliates are John H. Scully, William E. Oberndorf and William J. Patterson. This information is obtained from the Schedule 13D/A filed on May 19, 2003 and the most recent Form 4 filed on June 19, 2003.

- (17) This information is obtained from the Schedule 13F filed on May 14, 2004.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Report of the Compensation and Personnel Committee

The following report will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating this proxy statement into any filing by us under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed soliciting material or deemed filed under those Acts.

Executive Compensation Philosophy

In establishing and assessing the compensation programs and compensation policies for the executive officers and other senior executives, the Committee is guided by the following principles:

The total compensation of executive officers of the Company and other key employees must be competitive with those of other major executive recruiting firms, recognizing the Company's size and complexity relative to the Company's peers;

Individual cash bonuses and stock option awards should be closely tied to the performance of the Company as a whole, as well as to the team and individual performance of the executive group; and

The interests of senior management and the Company's stockholders should be closely aligned through direct management ownership of the common stock of the Company, and by providing a meaningful portion of each key employee's total compensation in the form of equity-based incentives.

Because a number of the Company's peer organizations are privately-held, precise information regarding the senior executive compensation practices among the Company's competitor group is difficult to obtain. In addition, even when such data are available, meaningful differences in size, complexity and organizational structure among the Company's competitor group make direct comparisons of compensation practices problematic. In assessing the competitiveness of the Company's senior executive compensation, the Committee relies on information obtained from the proxies of publicly-traded competitors, information derived from data obtained from executives and senior search consultants we recruited from competitor organizations, and the Committee's general knowledge of the market for senior management positions. The Committee retained Towers Perrin as compensation consultants to assess the competitiveness of the Company's officer compensation.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation

Mr. Reilly became our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on July 29, 2001. We entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Reilly, effective on June 29, 2001, as amended, which is fully described on page 23 of this proxy statement. The Committee approved Mr. Reilly's compensation taking into account the scope and responsibility of his position and Mr. Reilly's skills and experience. Mr. Reilly's compensation is awarded consistent with our compensation philosophy as set forth above.

Senior Executive Compensation

The compensation provided to the Company's senior officers, including the named executive officers, consists of an annual base salary, an annual cash bonus, restricted stock and stock options granted at the market price of the common stock of the Company as of the date of grant and contributions to a long-term incentive plan.

Base Salaries

Base salaries for the Company's executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, and selected other key employees, are established annually by the Committee based on the Committee's understanding of competitive practices among the Company's major competitors, internal equity considerations, and individual performance.

Table of Contents

Cash Bonuses

The actual annual cash bonus of each executive officer, including the Chief Executive Officer, is determined by the Committee based on its assessment of the performance of the Company and of the executive officers as a group (team performance) and as individuals. The assessment of individual performance is based on factors deemed important by the Committee. The target and maximum cash bonuses available to each executive officer are more fully described in each executive officer's employment contract on pages 23-24 of this proxy statement.

In determining the level of cash bonuses for the Company's executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, for fiscal 2004, the Committee took into consideration the Company's financial performance and stock price performance, the performance of the Company's subsidiary operations, including Futurestep, and the performance of each officer. Cash bonuses were awarded to executive officers as follows: Paul Reilly, \$1,050,000; Gary Burnison, \$475,000; Gary Hourihan, \$200,000; and Robert McNabb, \$425,000.

Restricted Stock

On June 30, 2004, restricted stock grants were awarded to executive officers as follows: Paul Reilly, 30,980 shares; Gary Burnison, 10,610 shares; Gary Hourihan, 7,960 shares; and Robert McNabb, 7,960 shares. The restricted stock awarded will vest in three equal annual installments beginning on June 30, 2005.

Stock Options

As part of their total compensation package, each of the Company's executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, is eligible to receive an annual grant of stock options (performance options). On June 30, 2004, the Committee approved stock option awards as follows: Paul Reilly, 48,570 shares; Gary Burnison, 4,860 shares; Gary Hourihan, 9,710 shares; and Robert McNabb, 9,710 shares. The stock options awarded will vest in three equal annual installments beginning on June 30, 2005.

Long-Term Incentive

In December 2003, the Company adopted the Executive Capital Accumulation Plan (ECAP), a nonqualified deferred compensation plan. Each of the Company's executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, is eligible to receive a contribution from the Company to each participant's ECAP account. The actual Company contribution is determined by the Committee based on its assessment of the performance of the Company and the executive officers individually. The assessment of individual performance is based on factors deemed important by the Committee. Contributions to the ECAP will vest in three equal annual installments beginning on June 30, 2005.

Employment Contracts

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Each of the Company's named executive officers is covered by an employment agreement that provides for a minimum level of salary, cash bonus potential, and option and benefit eligibility. The agreements also provide for a defined severance benefit in the event of a termination of employment without cause or for good reason as such terms are defined in the agreements. Such severance benefits range up to two times salary and target bonus depending upon the officer. The agreements also provide for the continuation of health and welfare benefits upon a termination without cause or for good reason. It is the Committee's belief that such agreements are necessary from a competitive perspective and also contribute to the stability of the management team.

Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m)

As one of the factors in the review of compensation matters, the Compensation Committee considers the anticipated tax treatment to the Company. The deductibility of some types of compensation for executive officers depends upon the timing of an executive's vesting or exercise of previously granted rights or on whether such plans qualify as performance-based plans under the provisions of the tax laws. The Committee usually seeks to

Table of Contents

satisfy the requirements necessary to allow the compensation of its executive officers to be deductible under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, but may also approve compensation that is not deductible under Section 162(m).

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Directors Cahouet, Lowe, Miller and Schulmeyer comprise the Compensation and Personnel Committee.

Compensation and Personnel Committee

Edward D. Miller, Chair

Frank V. Cahouet

David L. Lowe

Gerhard Schulmeyer

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Annual Compensation			Restricted Stock (as of Date of Grant) (\$)(2)	Long-Term Compensation Awards Securities Underlying Options (#)(3)	All Other Compensation (\$)(4)
		Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)(1)	Other Annual Compensation (\$)			
Paul C. Reilly	2004	654,167(5)	1,050,000	0	600,083	48,570	713,938(6)
	2003	650,000	550,000(7)	0	810,000	250,000	14,236(8)
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board	2002	500,542(9)	1,400,000(10)	0	1,549,000	650,000	9,403(11)
Gary D. Burnison	2004	422,917(12)	475,000	0	205,516	4,860	111,181(13)
	2003	350,000	300,000	0	243,000	50,000	8,769(14)
Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President	2002	37,083(15)	0	0	74,400	50,000	630(16)
Gary C. Hourihan	2004	375,000	200,000	0	154,185	9,710	15,680(17)
	2003	375,000	175,000	0	162,000	25,000	11,896(18)
Executive Vice-President of Organizational Development and President of Global Leadership	2002	336,000(19)	0	0	74,400	30,000	13,541(20)

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Development							
Robert H. McNabb	2004	425,000	425,000	0	154,185	9,710	62,723(21)
Chief Executive Officer of Korn/Ferry International Futurestep, Inc. and Executive Vice-President of Korn/Ferry International	2003	425,000	175,000	0	162,000	25,000	12,258(22)
	2002	177,083(23)	0	0	0	55,000	4,348(24)

- (1) The fiscal 2004 cash bonuses were earned in fiscal 2004 but were paid subsequent to April 30, 2004.
- (2) The fiscal 2004 restricted stock grants were made subsequent to April 30, 2004.
- (3) The Company's executive officers were granted stock options in connection with the commencement of employment and performance-related stock options.
- (4) No contributions were made to the Company's 401(k) plan for fiscal years 2002 and 2003.
- (5) Represents an additional payment of \$4,167 as part of fiscal 2003 base salary adjustment in which Mr. Reilly received in fiscal 2004.
- (6) Represents an Executive Capital Accumulation Plan (ECAP) Company contribution of \$700,000, an auto allowance of \$7,200, 401(k) Company contribution of \$2,467, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$560, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,531 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$180.

Table of Contents

- (7) Represents a bonus of \$550,000 which Mr. Reilly received on July 15, 2003.
- (8) Represents a partner college tuition benefit of \$2,000, an auto allowance of \$7,200, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$1,637, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,219 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$180.
- (9) Represents compensation paid to Mr. Reilly from June 29, 2001, when he joined the Company, through the end of fiscal 2002. From June 29, 2001 until August 31, 2001, Mr. Reilly's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$650,000. From September 1, 2001 until April 30, 2002, Mr. Reilly's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$585,000.
- (10) Represents a guaranteed bonus of \$1,000,000, of which Mr. Reilly received \$500,000 on April 30, 2002 and elected to defer payment of the remaining \$500,000 until December 31, 2002. Includes also a payment of \$400,000 made at the start of employment as compensation for unpaid bonus by previous employer.
- (11) Represents an auto allowance of \$6,030, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$1,258, executive medical benefits premium of \$1,852 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$263.
- (12) From May 1, 2003 until September 30, 2003, Mr. Burnison's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$350,000. From October 1, 2003 until April 30, 2004, Mr. Burnison's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$475,000.
- (13) Represents an ECAP Company contribution of \$100,000, an auto allowance of \$5,400, 401(k) Company contribution of \$2,100, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,531 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (14) Represents an auto allowance of \$5,400, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,219 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (15) Represents compensation paid to Mr. Burnison from March 20, 2002, when he joined the Company, through the end of fiscal 2002. Mr. Burnison's base salary for fiscal 2002 was paid at an annual rate of \$325,000.
- (16) Represents an auto allowance of \$630.
- (17) Represents a partner college tuition benefit of \$2,000, auto allowance of \$7,200, 401(k) Company contribution of \$2,343, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$456, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,531 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (18) Represents an auto allowance of \$7,200, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$1,327, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,219 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (19) Represents compensation paid to Mr. Hourihan for fiscal 2002. From May 1, 2001 until August 31, 2001, Mr. Hourihan's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$360,000. From September 1, 2001 until April 30, 2002, Mr. Hourihan's base salary was paid at an annual rate of \$324,000.
- (20) Represents a partner college tuition benefit of \$2,000, an auto allowance of \$7,200, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$1,264, executive medical benefits premium of \$2,777 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$300.

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

- (21) Represents an ECAP Company contribution of \$50,000, an auto allowance of \$6,000, 401(k) Company contribution of \$2,467, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$575, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,531 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (22) Represents an auto allowance of \$7,200, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$1,689, executive medical benefits premium of \$3,219 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$150.
- (23) Represents compensation paid to Mr. McNabb from December 3, 2001, when he joined Futurestep, through the end of fiscal 2002. Mr. McNabb's base salary for fiscal 2002 was paid at an annual rate of \$425,000.
- (24) Represents an auto allowance of \$3,000, executive life insurance premiums and/or imputed income of \$532, executive medical benefits premium of \$694 and travel accident insurance premiums of \$122.

Table of Contents

Employment Agreements

Paul C. Reilly, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since June 29, 2001. In connection with the appointment of Paul Reilly as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Reilly. The original term of the agreement is for five years, and will automatically renew for successive three-year periods thereafter until the first June 30th following the date on which Mr. Reilly reaches age 65; provided, however, that either we or Mr. Reilly may terminate the agreement at the end of the initial term or any renewal term by delivering to the other party at least 60 days prior written notice. Mr. Reilly's base salary is \$650,000 and the agreement provides for an annual target bonus equal to 150% of base salary and an annual maximum bonus of up to 300% of base salary. In December 2001, Mr. Reilly's agreement was amended to provide for his minimum bonus of \$1,000,000 for fiscal 2002 to be paid in two installments. In addition, the agreement provides that Mr. Reilly will be eligible for an annual grant of stock options having a target grant value of \$1,250,000 and a maximum grant value of \$1,750,000 based on a Black-Scholes option pricing model valuation. We have also agreed to pay certain transition and relocation costs incurred by Mr. Reilly.

In connection with his election, Mr. Reilly was granted options to purchase 450,000 shares with an exercise price of \$15.50 per share, the closing price of the stock in trading in the New York Stock Exchange on June 29, 2001. Of these options, 300,000 vest in equal installments over three years and 150,000 vest in three equal installments based on the attainment of specified price levels in the stock of the Company. The price levels for vesting are \$28 per share, \$33 per share and \$38 per share. In addition, the Board made a restricted stock award of 100,000 shares to Mr. Reilly. The restricted stock awarded to Mr. Reilly will vest in three annual installments beginning in June 2002. To the extent not vested, the restricted stock will be forfeited if Mr. Reilly is terminated with cause or he resigns without good reason.

If Mr. Reilly's employment terminates due to death or disability, then we will pay Mr. Reilly, or his legal representatives, all accrued compensation as of the date of termination, and all outstanding stock options held by Mr. Reilly at the time of termination will vest and remain exercisable until their originally scheduled expiration dates. If Mr. Reilly's employment is terminated by us for cause, is terminated by Mr. Reilly prior to its expiration without good reason or if Mr. Reilly fails to renew the agreement after its initial term, then we will pay Mr. Reilly all accrued compensation as of the date of termination.

Prior to a change in control, if Mr. Reilly's employment is terminated by us without cause or is terminated by Mr. Reilly for good reason, then we will pay Mr. Reilly all accrued compensation as of the date of termination, and a lump sum amount equal to 200% of his base salary and target bonus. If, prior to a change in control, Mr. Reilly's employment is terminated because the Company elects not to renew the agreement, then Mr. Reilly will be entitled to a lump sum amount equal to his base salary and target bonus. On termination in any of the foregoing circumstances, all of Mr. Reilly's outstanding stock options as of the date of termination will vest and will remain exercisable until their originally scheduled expiration dates.

If there is a change in control and within 12 months Mr. Reilly's employment is terminated by us without cause, or because we elect not to renew the agreement before Mr. Reilly reaches the age of 65, or by Mr. Reilly for good reason, then we will pay Mr. Reilly all accrued compensation as of the date of termination, and a lump sum equal to (1) 200% of the greater of his base salary or the annual base salary in effect just prior to the change in control, whichever amount is higher, plus (2) the greater of 200% of his maximum bonus for the incentive year in which such termination occurs or the maximum bonus for the preceding fiscal year. On termination in any of the foregoing circumstances, all of Mr. Reilly's outstanding stock options as of the date of termination will vest and will remain exercisable until their originally scheduled expiration dates.

In March 2004, Mr. Reilly's agreement was amended to provide for payment of any excise tax, if applicable, including any interest or penalties, imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Table of Contents

Gary D. Burnison, Chief Operating Officer since October 1, 2003, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President since March 20, 2002. On October 1, 2003, we entered into an employment agreement with Gary Burnison as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President. The original term of the agreement is from October 1, 2003 until April 30, 2007, and the Company may renew for successive one-year periods. Mr. Burnison's salary is \$475,000 per year, and the agreement provided that he would have a target annual cash bonus of 100% of his base salary and a maximum annual cash bonus opportunity equal to 200% of base salary. In addition, he would be eligible to receive an annual stock option grant with a target grant value equal to 50-100% of base salary and a maximum grant value equal to 100% of base salary based on a Black-Scholes option pricing model valuation. The offer also provided that should Mr. Burnison be terminated without cause, as defined in the agreement, he would receive severance equal to 200% of his then current annual base salary plus 200% of his current target cash bonus. The agreement also provided for payment of any excise tax, if applicable, including any interest or penalties, imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Gary C. Hourihan, Executive Vice-President of Organizational Development and President of Global Leadership Development since March 2000. In March 2000, we entered into an employment agreement with Gary Hourihan as Executive Vice-President of Organizational Development and President of Global Leadership Development. The initial term of the agreement was through April 30, 2002 and automatically renews for successive two-year periods thereafter until the first April 30th following the date on which Mr. Hourihan reaches age 65; provided, however, that either we or Mr. Hourihan may terminate this agreement at the end of the initial term or renewal term by delivering to the other party at least 120 days prior written notice. Mr. Hourihan's base salary is \$375,000 and the agreement provides for an annual target bonus equal to 100% of base salary and an annual maximum bonus of up to 200% of base salary. If, prior to a change in control, Mr. Hourihan's employment is terminated by us without cause or is terminated by Mr. Hourihan for good reason, then we will pay Mr. Hourihan all accrued compensation as of the date of termination, and a lump sum amount equal to 150% of his base salary and target bonus. If Mr. Hourihan's employment is terminated because the Company elects not to renew the agreement, then Mr. Hourihan will be entitled to a lump sum amount equal to one times his base salary and target bonus. If Mr. Hourihan's employment is terminated by us for performance reasons, then Mr. Hourihan will be entitled to a lump sum amount equal to one times his base salary and target bonus. On termination in any of the foregoing circumstances, all of Mr. Hourihan's outstanding stock options as of the date of termination will vest and will remain exercisable until their originally scheduled expiration dates. If there is a change in control and within 12 months Mr. Hourihan's employment is terminated by us without cause, because we elect not to renew the agreement, or for a performance reason, or by Mr. Hourihan for good reason, then Mr. Hourihan is entitled to receive severance payments similar to those described above for Mr. Reilly.

Robert H. McNabb, Chief Executive Officer of Korn/Ferry International Futurestep, Inc. since July 2002 and Executive Vice-President of Korn/Ferry International. Korn/Ferry International entered into an employment agreement with Robert McNabb as Chief Executive Officer of Korn/Ferry International Futurestep, Inc. on October 1, 2003. The original term of the agreement is from October 1, 2003 until October 1, 2006, and the Company may renew for successive one-year periods. Mr. McNabb was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Futurestep in July 2002. The agreement provided that Mr. McNabb would be awarded a grant of 35,000 stock options effective on the date such grant was approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board, which occurred on January 7, 2002. Mr. McNabb's salary is \$425,000 per year, and the agreement provides for a target annual cash bonus of 100% of base salary and a maximum annual cash bonus opportunity equal to 200% of base salary. In addition, he is eligible to receive an annual stock option grant with a target grant value equal to 50% of base salary and a maximum grant value equal to 100% of base salary, based on a Black-Scholes option pricing model valuation. The agreement also provides that if Mr. McNabb is terminated without cause, as defined in the agreement, then he will receive all accrued compensation and a severance payment equal to 150% of his then current annual base salary plus 150% of his current target cash bonus.

Table of Contents**Aggregate Option Received**

The following table sets forth the number of options that have been received by persons and groups named below as of April 30, 2004. Options and other awards which may be awarded in the future are not determinable at this time.

Name	Title	Aggregate Number of Options Received Under the Performance Award Plan
Paul Reilly	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman	900,000
Gary Burnison	Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President	100,000
Gary Hourihan	President of Global Leadership Development and Executive Vice-President of Organizational Development	127,004
Robert McNabb	Chief Executive Officer of Korn/Ferry International Futurestep, Inc. and Executive Vice-President of Korn/Ferry International	80,000
James Barlett	Director Nominee	21,013
Sakie Fukushima	Director Nominee	108,684
David Lowe	Director Nominee	16,076
Edward Miller	Director Nominee	16,076
Frank Cahouet	Director	21,013
Spencer Fleischer	Director	16,076
Patti Hart	Director	19,013
Gerhard Schulmeyer	Director	21,013
Ihno Schneevoigt	Director	3,082
Kenneth Whipple	Director	3,082
Current Executive Officers as a Group		1,207,004
Current Directors who are not Executive Officers as a Group		245,128
Employees and Current Non-Executive Officers as a Group		7,751,051

Table of Contents**Aggregated Option Exercises and Year-End Option Values**

The following table shows information for the named executive officers, concerning:

- (1) exercises of stock options during fiscal 2004; and
- (2) the amount and values of unexercised stock options as of April 30, 2004.

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise (1)	Value Realized (\$)	Number of Securities Underlying Options		Value of Unexercised In-the Money Options	
			At FY-End		at FY-End (2)	
			Unexercisable	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable
Paul C. Reilly	0	0	633,333	266,667	2,733,331	506,669
Gary D. Burnison	0	0	83,333	16,667	545,931	100,969
Gary C. Hourihan	0	0	48,510	78,494	324,000	105,731
Robert H. McNabb	0	0	49,999	30,001	317,895	139,805

- (1) This amount represents the number of securities with respect to which the options were exercised with no shares acquired.
- (2) This amount represents solely the difference between the closing price on April 30, 2004 of \$14.98 per share of the common stock of the Company and the respective exercise prices of those unexercised options that had an exercise price below such market price (i.e., in-the-money options). No assumptions or representations regarding the value of such options are made or intended.

Option Grants in Last Fiscal Year

Name	Individual Grants		Exercise Of Base Price (\$/Sh)	Expiration Date	Potential Realizable Value At Assumed Annual Rates Of Stock Price Appreciation For Option Term	
	Number Of Securities Underlying Option/SAR s Granted	Percent of Total Options/SAR s Granted To Employees In Fiscal Year			5% (\$)	10% (\$)
	(a)	(c)			(f)	(g)
Paul C. Reilly	250,000	11.12	8.10	6/30/2013	1,273,512	3,227,328
Gary D. Burnison	50,000	2.22	8.10	6/30/2013	254,702	645,466

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Gary C. Hourihan	25,000	1.11	8.10	6/30/2013	127,351	322,733
Robert H. McNabb	25,000	1.11	8.10	6/30/2013	127,351	322,733

Table of Contents**Retirement Plan Table**

Final Average Salary	Years of Service			
	5	10	15	20
200,000	12,500	25,000	37,500	50,000
300,000	18,750	37,500	56,250	75,000
400,000	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000
500,000	31,250	62,500	93,750	125,000
600,000	37,500	75,000	112,500	150,000
700,000	43,750	87,500	131,250	175,000
800,000	50,000	100,000	150,000	200,000
900,000	56,250	112,500	168,750	225,000
1,000,000	62,500	125,000	187,500	250,000

Estimated Annual Benefit* for Representative Years of Service and Final Average Salary

**Benefit is calculated using full target benefit of 25% of final average salary.*

We amended the Company's Worldwide Executive Benefit Retirement Plan to provide for no annual accruals after April 2003 and to provide that final average salary would be the greater of (i) the participant's highest average monthly base salary during the 36 consecutive months out of the 72-month period ending June 1, 2003 or (ii) the participant's base salary as of June 1, 2003. In addition, we made no accruals to the Plan for our 2002, 2003 and 2004 fiscal years. Under the terms of the Company's Worldwide Executive Benefit Retirement Plan, designated managing directors and Vice-Presidents would be entitled to receive an unfunded supplemental retirement benefit upon attainment of age 65, with a reduced benefit available as early as age 55. The supplemental benefit calculated on a single-life basis would be an annual amount equal to the named executive's final average salary multiplied by a service percentage. The target service percentage is 25% with 1/20th accrued each year over the first 20 years of participation. The supplemental benefit was also offset by any retirement benefits provided by us and/or the local government. As of April 30, 2004, the credited years of service with accrued benefits for the Company's named executive officers were: Paul C. Reilly, 0 years; Gary D. Burnison, 0 years; Gary C. Hourihan, 2 years and Robert H. McNabb, 0 years. None of the benefits above are subject to any deduction for Social Security or other fiscal offset amount.

Table of Contents**Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

The following table summarizes information about the Company's equity compensation plans as of April 30, 2004.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Weighted-average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (excluding securities reflected in the second column of this table)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders			
Performance Award Plan(1):	9,541,330	\$12.13	2,201,754(2)
Employee Stock Purchase Plan(3):	98,792		1,401,208
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
Total	9,640,122	\$12.13	3,602,962

(1) 13,000,000 shares of the common stock of the Company are reserved under the Performance Award Plan.

(2) 2,201,754 shares are available for future issuances because 1,256,916 options to purchase the common stock of the Company have been exercised and are not available for future grants.

(3) 1,500,000 shares of the common stock of the Company are reserved under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Table of Contents

Performance Graph

We have presented below a graph comparing the cumulative total stockholder return on the Company's shares with the cumulative total stockholder return on (1) a broad equity market index and (2) a published industry index or a company-established peer group. The following graph compares the monthly percentage change in the Company's cumulative total stockholder return with the cumulative total return of the companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and a peer group constructed by us. Cumulative total return for each of the periods shown in the performance graph is measured assuming an initial investment of \$100 on April 30, 1999, the date public trading of the common stock of the Company began in connection with the Company's initial public offering, and the reinvestment of any dividends paid by any company in the peer group on the date the dividends were declared.

The peer group is comprised of publicly traded companies, which are engaged principally or in significant part in professional staffing and consulting. The returns of each company have been weighted according to their respective stock market capitalization at the beginning of each measurement period for purposes of arriving at a peer group average. The members of the peer group are Caldwell Partners International Inc. (CWL/A CN), Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc. (HSII) and Whitehead Mann Group Plc (WHT.LN).

The stock price performance depicted in this graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance. This graph will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating this proxy statement into any filing by us under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent we specifically incorporate this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed soliciting material or deemed filed under those Acts.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is comprised of three outside directors, all of whom are independent as defined by the applicable listing standards of the NYSE and the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Audit Committee is governed by the Audit Committee charter, as amended and restated, which has been adopted by the Board of Directors. A copy of the current Audit Committee charter is attached to this Proxy Statement as Appendix B, and is available on the Company's website at www.kornferry.com in the Corporate Information section of the Media/Investors webpage.

Management of the Company is responsible for the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the consolidated financial statements, maintaining a system of internal controls and having appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies. The independent auditors are responsible for planning and carrying out an audit of the consolidated statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and expressing an opinion as to the statements' conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The Audit Committee monitors and oversees these processes and is responsible for selecting and overseeing the Company's independent auditor.

As part of the oversight process, the Audit Committee met four times during fiscal 2004 and met with the independent auditors, management and internal auditor, both together and separately in closed sessions. In the course of fulfilling its responsibilities, the Audit Committee did, among other things, the following:

reviewed and discussed with management and the independent auditor, the Company's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2004;

reviewed management's representations that those consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and present fairly the results of operations and financial position of the Company;

discussed with the independent auditor the matters required by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61;

received a letter from the independent auditor required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 confirming their independence;

considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the auditor to the Company is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, and discussed with the auditor their independence.

Based on the foregoing review and discussions described in this report, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2004 for filing with the SEC.

Audit Committee

Frank V. Cahouet, Chair

James E. Barlett

Kenneth Whipple

30

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

On June 13, 2002, we entered into a Purchase Agreement with funds managed by Friedman Fleischer & Lowe, LLC pursuant to which we issued and sold to the Friedman Fleischer funds for an aggregate price of \$50,000,000 (i) 10,000 shares of the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock at a price of \$1,000 per share, (ii) 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010, in an aggregate principal amount of \$40,000,000 and (iii) eight-year warrants to purchase shares of the common stock of the Company. The Company pays part of the dividends on the preferred stock and interest on the notes in additional preferred stock and notes, and the number of shares into which the preferred stock, notes and warrants are convertible or exercisable may be adjusted as a result of certain issuances of the common stock of the Company.

Under the terms of an Investor Rights Agreement we entered into with the Friedman Fleischer funds on June 13, 2002, we agreed to expand the number of directors on the Board from ten to twelve and to designate two persons chosen by Friedman Fleischer to serve on the Board. Friedman Fleischer designated Spencer C. Fleischer and David L. Lowe, both of whom manage the Friedman Fleischer funds, and they were appointed by us to serve on the Board in June 2002. The Investor Rights Agreement is attached as an exhibit to the Company's Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2002, and more fully describes the rights of the Friedman Fleischer funds.

According to Schedule 13D/A filed on June 30, 2004, the Friedman Fleischer funds sold 3,415 shares of the Company's 7.5% Convertible Series A Preferred Stock and 7.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes Due 2010 with an aggregate principal amount of \$13,662,000, all of which are currently convertible into the aggregate amount of 1,675,858 shares of the Company's common stock, to Credit Suisse First Boston Capital LLC pursuant to a Forward Sale Contract entered into as of June 25, 2004.

All of the preferred stock, the notes and the warrants are currently convertible into or may be exercised to purchase a total of 5,860,393 shares of the common stock of the Company.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the 1934 Act, requires the Company's directors, officers and ten percent beneficial owners to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership of their equity securities of the Company with the SEC and to furnish the Company with copies of such reports. To the best of the Company's knowledge, all of the filings by the Company's directors, officers and ten percent beneficial owners were filed on a timely basis during the 2004 fiscal year, except that a Form 4 was filed late for each of Messrs. Cahouet, Barlett, Fleischer, Lowe, Miller and Schulmeyer and Ms. Hart for a grant of stock options to purchase 2,500 shares of common stock.

Annual Report to Stockholders

Enclosed with this proxy statement is the Company's annual report for fiscal 2004, which includes the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (excluding the exhibits thereto). The annual report is enclosed for the convenience of stockholders and should not be viewed as part of these

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

proxy solicitation materials. If any person who was a beneficial owner of the common stock of the Company on July 19, 2004 for the Annual Meeting desires additional information, a complete copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the exhibits thereto, will be furnished upon written request. The request should identify the requesting person as a stockholder as of July 19, 2004 and should be directed to Peter L. Dunn, Esq., Corporate Secretary and General Counsel, Korn/Ferry International, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 900, California 90067. The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the exhibits thereto, is also available through the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Table of Contents

Submission of Stockholder Proposals for Consideration and Nominations of Persons for Election as Directors at the Annual Meeting

In order for business to be properly brought before the Annual Meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder must give notice of such business in writing to Peter L. Dunn, Esq., Corporate Secretary and General Counsel, Korn/Ferry International, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 900, California 90067, at least 90 and not more than 120 days prior to the anniversary of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the previous year.

Any stockholder interested in communicating with members of the Board may send written communications to the Board or any of the Directors to Korn/Ferry International, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 900, Los Angeles, California 90067, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Communications received in writing are forwarded to the Board or to any individual director or directors to whom the communication is directed, unless the communication is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal, does not reasonably relate to the Company or its business, or is similarly inappropriate. The Corporate Secretary has the authority to discard or disregard any inappropriate communications or to take other appropriate actions with respect to any such inappropriate communications.

Stockholder Proposals and Nominations for Next Year's Annual Meeting

Notice of any stockholder proposal or nomination of a person for election as director that is intended by a stockholder to be included in the Company's proxy statement relating to the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2005 must be received by Peter L. Dunn, Esq., Corporate Secretary and General Counsel, Korn/Ferry International, 1800 Century Park East, Suite 900, California 90067 by April 13, 2005.

Each notice of any stockholder proposal must comply with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the Company's Bylaws as in effect at the time of such notice.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Peter L. Dunn
Corporate Secretary and

General Counsel

August 12, 2004

Table of Contents

APPENDIX A

**KORN/FERRY INTERNATIONAL SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED
PERFORMANCE AWARD PLAN**

1. The Plan

1.1 Purpose. The purpose of this Plan is to promote the success of the Company and the interests of its shareholders by attracting, motivating, retaining and rewarding directors, officers, employees and other eligible persons with awards and incentives for high levels of individual performance and improved financial performance of the Company; to attract, motivate and retain experienced and knowledgeable independent directors through the benefits provided under Section 8; and to further align their respective interests with those of shareholders generally through awards of stock-based incentives. Capitalized terms are defined in Section 7.

1.2 Administration and Authorization; Power and Procedure.

1.2.1 Committee. This Plan will be administered by the Committee. All Awards to Eligible Persons will be authorized by the Committee except that all discretionary Awards to Non-Employee Directors must be approved or ratified by the Board. All Awards to Other Eligible Persons will be subject to approval by the Committee and ratification by the Board, unless the Board expressly (by resolution or amendment to this Plan) provides otherwise. Action of the Committee with respect to the administration of this Plan will be taken pursuant to a majority vote or by written consent of its members.

1.2.2 Plan Awards; Interpretation; Powers of Committee. Subject to the express provisions of this Plan, and any express limitations on the delegated authority of a Committee, the Committee will have the authority to determine eligibility and the particular Eligible Persons who will receive Awards and to:

- (a) grant Awards to Eligible Persons, determine the effective date of grant (which may be a date after but not before the Committee's authorization of the Award), determine the price at which securities will be offered or awarded and the amount of securities to be offered or awarded to any of such persons, determine the other specific terms and conditions of such Awards consistent with the express limits of this Plan, establish the installments (if any) in which such Awards will become exercisable or will vest, or determine that no delayed exercisability or vesting is required, and establish the events of termination or reversion of such Awards, all consistent with the express limits of this Plan;
- (b) approve the forms of Award (which need not necessarily be identical either as to type of Award or among participants in this Plan (each, a **Participant**));
- (c) construe and interpret this Plan and any agreements defining the rights and obligations of the Company and Eligible Persons under this Plan, further define the terms used in this Plan, and prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the administration of this Plan;
- (d)

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

cancel, modify, or waive the Company's rights with respect to, or modify, discontinue, suspend, or terminate any or all outstanding Awards held by Eligible Persons, subject to any required consent under Section 6.6;

- (e) accelerate or extend the exercisability or extend the term of any or all such outstanding Awards within the limitations under Section 1.6, except to the extent limited by law (including Section 162(m) of the Code); and
- (f) make all other determinations and take such other action as contemplated by this Plan or as may be necessary or advisable for the administration of this Plan and the effectuation of its purposes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of Section 8 relating to Non-Employee Director Awards will be automatic and, to the maximum extent possible, self-effectuating. To the extent required, any interpretation or administration of this Plan in respect of Awards under Section 8 shall be the responsibility of the Board.

A-1

Table of Contents

1.2.3 Binding Determinations. Any action taken by, or inaction of, the Company, the Board or the Committee relating or pursuant to this Plan will be within the absolute discretion of that entity or body and will be conclusive and binding upon all persons. No member of the Board or Committee, or any officer of the Company, will be liable for any action or inaction of the entity or body, of another person or of the member or officer, except in circumstances involving his or her bad faith. Subject only to compliance with the express provisions hereof, the Board and Committee may act in their absolute discretion in matters within their authority related to this Plan.

1.2.4 Reliance on Experts. In making any determination or in taking or not taking any action under this Plan, the Committee or the Board, as the case may be, may obtain and may rely upon the advice of experts, including professional advisors to the Company. No director, officer or agent of the Company will be liable for any such action or determination taken or made or omitted in good faith.

1.2.5 Delegation. The Committee may delegate ministerial, non-discretionary functions to individuals who are officers or employees of the Company.

1.3 Participation. Discretionary Awards may be granted by the Committee only to those persons that the Committee determines to be Eligible Persons. An Eligible Person who has been granted an Award may, if otherwise eligible, be granted additional Awards if the Committee so determines.

1.4 Shares Available for Awards; Share Limits.

1.4.1 Shares Available. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2, the capital stock that may be delivered under this Plan will be shares of the Company's authorized but unissued Common Stock and any shares of its Common Stock held as treasury shares. The shares may be delivered for any lawful consideration.

1.4.2 Share Limits. The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be subject to Awards is 16,000,000 shares (the Share Limit). The maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be subject to Options and Stock Appreciation Rights that are granted during any calendar year to any one individual is, in the aggregate to 700,000 shares, and the maximum number of shares of Common Stock that may be subject to all Awards that are granted during any calendar year to any one individual, in the aggregate, is 1,050,000 shares. The maximum individual limit for any Non-Employee Director, including any Option granted or to be granted (assuming continued eligibility during the year of grant) pursuant to Section 8 of this Plan, will be 50,000 shares covered by the Plan during any twelve month period. Each of the foregoing limits will be subject to adjustment as contemplated by this Section 1.4 and Section 6.2.

1.4.3 Unexercisable, Forfeited or Terminated Awards. If an Award should expire, become unexercisable, be forfeited or otherwise terminate for any reason without the full number of shares that were subject to such Award having been delivered, then the unpurchased or forfeited shares shall not be counted against the limits set forth in Section 1.4.2; provided, however, that if an Award is canceled, forfeited or treated as having been canceled for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Code, the canceled Award shall count against the maximum number of shares for which an Award may be granted to any Eligible Person under this Plan.

1.5 Grant of Awards. Subject to the express provisions of this Plan, the Committee will determine the number of shares of Common Stock subject to each Award, the price (if any) to be paid for the shares or the Award and, in the case of Performance Share Awards, in addition to matters addressed in Section 1.2.2, the specific objectives, goals and performance criteria (such as an increase in sales, market value, earnings or book value over a base period, the years of service before vesting, the relevant job classification or level of responsibility or other factors) that further define the terms of the Performance Share Award. Each Award will be evidenced by an Award Agreement

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

signed by the Company and, if required by the Committee, by the Participant.

- 1.6 Award Period.** Any Option, SAR, warrant or similar right shall expire and any other Award shall either vest or be forfeited not more than 10 years after the date of grant; provided, however, that a payment of cash

A-2

Table of Contents

or delivery of shares pursuant to an Award may be delayed until a future date under and in accordance with the specific terms of a non-qualified deferred compensation plan sponsored by the Company.

1.7 *Limitations on Exercise and Vesting of Awards.*

1.7.1 *Provisions for Exercise.* Unless the Committee otherwise expressly provides, once exercisable an Award will remain exercisable until the expiration or earlier termination of the Award.

1.7.2 *Procedure.* Any exercisable Award will be deemed to be exercised when the Company receives written notice of such exercise from the Participant, together with any required payment made in accordance with Section 2.2.2 or 8.4, as the case may be, and any other requirements of exercise, including any documents required by Section 6.4, are satisfied.

1.7.3 *Fractional Shares/Minimum Issue.* Fractional share interests will be disregarded, but may be accumulated. The Committee, however, may determine in the case of Eligible Persons that cash, other securities, or other property will be paid or transferred in lieu of any fractional share interests. No fewer than 100 shares, irrespective of any Adjustments under Sections 6.2 or 8.6 of this Plan, may be purchased on exercise of any Award at one time unless the number purchased is the total number at the time available for purchase under the Award.

1.8 *Acceptance of Promissory Notes to Finance Exercise.* Subject to applicable law, the Company, in its sole discretion, may, with the Committee's express approval, accept one or more promissory notes from any Eligible Person (other than an executive officer (as defined in Rule 3b-7 under the Exchange Act) or director of the Company) in connection with the exercise or receipt of any outstanding Award; but any such note will be subject to at least the following terms and conditions:

1.8.1 *Principal.* The principal of the note will not exceed the amount required to be paid to the Company upon the exercise or receipt of one or more Awards under the Plan and the note will be delivered directly to the Company in consideration of such exercise or receipt.

1.8.2 *Term.* The initial term of the note will be determined by the Committee; but the term of the note, including extensions, will not exceed a period of five years.

1.8.3 *Recourse; Security.* The note will provide for full recourse to the Participant and will bear interest at a rate determined by the Committee but not less than the interest rate necessary to avoid the imputation of interest under the Code. If required by the Committee or by applicable law, the note will be secured by a pledge of any shares or rights financed thereby in compliance with applicable law. The terms, repayment provisions, and collateral release provisions of the note and the pledge securing the note will conform with applicable rules and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board as then in effect.

1.8.4 *Termination of Employment.* If the employment or service of the Participant terminates, the unpaid principal balance of the note will become due and payable no later than the 10th business day after such termination unless the Committee at the time expressly authorized an extension.

1.8.5 Other Conditions. Participants who are not employees of the Company will not be entitled to purchase shares of Common Stock with a promissory note unless the note is adequately secured by collateral other than the shares of Common Stock. The portion of the exercise price for (or purchase price of) shares of Common Stock equal to the par value, if any, of any newly issued shares under this Plan must be paid in cash, for services rendered or other valid consideration.

1.9 Transfer Restrictions and Exceptions.

1.9.1 Limit on Exercise and Transfer. Unless otherwise expressly provided in (or pursuant to) this Section 1.9, by applicable law and by the Award Agreement, as the same may be amended, (a) all Awards are non-transferable and will not be subject in any manner to sale, transfer, anticipation, alienation, assignment, pledge, encumbrance or charge; (b) Awards may be exercised only by the Participant; and (c) amounts payable or shares issuable pursuant to an Award will be delivered only to (or for the account of) the Participant.

Table of Contents

1.9.2 Exceptions. The Committee may permit Awards to be exercised by and paid only to certain persons or entities related to the Participant pursuant to such conditions and procedures as the Committee may establish. Any permitted transfer will be subject to the conditions that the transfer is consistent with applicable requirements for registration of the shares with the Commission, and that the Committee receive evidence satisfactory to it that the transfer is being made to related persons for estate and/or tax planning purposes and without consideration (other than nominal consideration). ISOs and Restricted Stock Awards, however, will be subject to any and all additional transfer restrictions under the Code.

1.9.3 Further Exceptions to Limits on Transfer. The exercise and transfer restrictions in Section 1.9.1 will not apply to:

- (a) transfers to the Company,
- (b) the designation of a beneficiary to receive benefits if the Participant dies or, if the Participant has died, transfers to or exercise by the Participant's beneficiary, or, in the absence of a validly designated beneficiary, transfers by will or the laws of descent and distribution,
- (c) except in the case of ISOs, transfers pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order if approved or ratified by the Committee,
- (d) if the Participant has suffered a disability that renders the Participant unable to legally act on his or her own behalf, permitted transfers or exercises on behalf of the Participant by the Participant's legal representative, or
- (e) the authorization by the Committee of cashless exercise procedures with third parties who provide financing for the purpose of (or who otherwise facilitate) the exercise of Awards consistent with applicable laws and the express authorization of the Committee.

1.9.4 Repricing/Cancellation and Regrant/Waiver Of Restrictions. Subject to Section 1.4 and Section 6.6 and the specific limitations on Awards contained in this Plan, except to the extent limited by law (including Section 162(m) of the Code), the Committee from time to time may authorize, generally or in specific cases only, for the benefit of any Eligible Person any adjustment in the exercise or purchase price, the vesting schedule, the number of shares subject to, the restrictions upon or the term of, an Option, SAR or other Award granted under this Plan by cancellation of an outstanding Award and a subsequent regranting of an Award, by amendment, by substitution of an outstanding Award, by waiver or by other legally valid means. Such amendment or other action may result among other changes in an exercise or purchase price that is higher or lower than the exercise, base or purchase price of the original or prior Award, provide for a greater or lesser number of shares subject to the Award, or provide for a longer or shorter vesting or exercise period.

2. Options

2.1 Grants. One or more Options may be granted under this Section to any Eligible Person. Each Option granted will be designated by the Committee, in the applicable Award Agreement, as either an Incentive Stock Option (subject to Section 2.3) or a Nonqualified Stock Option.

2.2 Option Price.

2.2.1 Pricing Limits. The purchase price per share of the Common Stock covered by each Option will be determined by the Committee at the time of the Award, but in no event will the purchase price per share of shares covered by an Incentive Stock Option be less than 100% (110% in the case of a Participant described in Section 2.4) of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the date of grant (or date of amendment in the case of an amendment to the exercise price).

A-4

Table of Contents

2.2.2 Payment Provisions. The purchase price of any shares purchased on exercise of an Option granted under this Section will be paid in full at the time of each purchase in one or a combination of the following methods:

- (a) in cash or by electronic funds transfer;
- (b) by certified or cashier's check payable to the order of the Company;
- (c) if authorized by the Committee or specified in the applicable Award Agreement, by a promissory note of the Participant consistent with the requirements of Section 1.8 and 6.4;
- (d) by notice and third party payment in such manner as may be authorized by the Committee; or
- (e) by the delivery of shares of Common Stock of the Company already owned by the Participant; provided that the Committee may in its absolute discretion limit the Participant's ability to exercise an Award by delivering such shares, and any shares delivered that were initially acquired from the Company must have been owned by the Participant at least six months as of the date of delivery. Shares of Common Stock used to satisfy the exercise price of an Option will be valued at their Fair Market Value on the date of exercise.

2.2.3 Cashless Exercise and Net Exercise Provisions. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Committee may provide that the Option can be exercised and payment made by:

- (a) a reduction, equal to the exercise price of the Option, in the number of shares of Common Stock otherwise issuable pursuant to such Option, based on the Fair Market Value of Common Stock; or
- (b) subject to applicable law, the holder of the Option irrevocably authorizing a broker to sell shares of Common Stock to be acquired through exercise of the Option and remitting to the Company a sufficient portion of the sale proceeds to pay the entire exercise price and (unless otherwise prohibited by the Committee or applicable law) any federal and state withholding resulting from such exercise as described in Section 6.5 (a Cashless Exercise); provided, however, that, notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, (i) the Company shall only deliver such Shares at or after the time the Company receives full payment for such Shares, (ii) the exercise price for such Shares will be due and payable to the Company no later than one business day following the date on which the proceeds from the sale of the underlying Shares are received by the authorized broker, (iii) in no event will the Company directly or indirectly extend or maintain credit, arrange for the extension of credit or renew any extension of credit, in the form of a personal loan or otherwise, in connection with a Cashless Exercise and (iv) in no event shall the holder of the Option enter into any agreement or arrangement with a brokerage or similar firm in which the proceeds received in connection with a Cashless Exercise will be received by or advanced to the holder of such Option before the date the Shares underlying such Option are delivered or released by the Company.

2.2.4 Delivery Condition. The Company will not be obligated to deliver certificates for any shares of Common Stock on exercise of an Option unless and until it receives full payment of the exercise price and any related withholding obligations have been satisfied.

2.3 Limitations on Grant and Terms of Incentive Stock Options.

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

2.3.1 \$100,000 Limit. To the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value of stock with respect to which incentive stock options first become exercisable by a Participant in any calendar year exceeds \$100,000, taking into account both Common Stock subject to Incentive Stock Options under this Plan and Common Stock subject to incentive stock options under all other plans of the Company or any other includable parent or subsidiary corporations (as these terms are used under Section 422(d) and defined in Section 424(e) and (f) of the Code), such options will be treated as Nonqualified Stock Options. For this purpose, the Fair Market Value of the stock subject to options will be determined as of the date the options were awarded. In reducing the number of options treated as incentive stock options to meet the \$100,000

A-5

Table of Contents

limit, the most recently granted options will be reduced first. To the extent a reduction of simultaneously granted options is necessary to meet the \$100,000 limit, the Committee may, in the manner and to the extent permitted by law, designate which shares of Common Stock are to be treated as shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option.

2.3.2 Option Period. Subject to Section 1.6, each Option and all rights thereunder will expire no later than 10 years after the Award Date.

2.3.3 Other Code Limits. Incentive Stock Options may only be granted to Eligible Employees of the Company that meet the other eligibility requirements of the Code. There will be imposed in any Award Agreement relating to Incentive Stock Options such other terms and conditions as from time to time are required in order that the Option be an incentive stock option as that term is defined in Section 422 of the Code.

2.4 Limits on 10% Holders. No Incentive Stock Option may be granted to any person who, at the time the Option is granted, owns (or is deemed to own under Section 424(d) of the Code) shares of outstanding Common Stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company, unless the exercise price of such Option is at least 110% of the Fair Market Value of the stock subject to the Option and such Option by its terms is not exercisable after the expiration of five years from the date such Option is granted.

2.5 Effects of Termination of Employment/Service; Termination of Subsidiary Status; Discretionary Provisions.

2.5.1 Options Resignation or Dismissal. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, if the Participant's employment by (or other service specified in the Award Agreement to) the Company terminates for any reason (the date of such termination being referred to as the Severance Date) other than Retirement, Total Disability or death, or a Termination For Cause (as determined in the discretion of the Committee), the Participant will have, subject to earlier expiration or termination pursuant to or as contemplated by Section 1.6 or 6.2, until three (3) months after the Severance Date to exercise any Option to the extent it has become exercisable on or before the Severance Date. In the case of a Termination For Cause, the Option will terminate on the Severance Date. To the extent not exercisable on the Severance Date, the Option will terminate on the Severance Date.

2.5.2 Options Death or Total Disability. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, if the Participant's employment by (or specified service to) the Company terminates as a result of Total Disability or death, the Participant, Participant's Personal Representative or the Participant's Beneficiary, as the case may be, will have, subject to earlier expiration or termination pursuant to or as contemplated by Section 1.6 or 6.2, until twelve (12) months after the Severance Date to exercise any Option to the extent it has become exercisable on or prior to the Severance Date. To the extent not exercisable on the Severance Date, the Option will terminate on the Severance Date.

2.5.3 Options Retirement. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, if the Participant's employment by (or specified service to) the Company terminates as a result of Retirement, the Participant, Participant's Personal Representative or the Participant's Beneficiary, as the case may be, will have, subject to earlier termination pursuant to or as contemplated by Section 1.6 or 6.2, until twelve (12) months after the Severance Date to exercise any Nonqualified Stock Option (three (3) months after the Severance Date in the case of an Incentive Stock Option) to the extent it has become exercisable on or prior to the Severance Date. To the extent not exercisable on the Severance Date, the Option will terminate on the Severance Date.

2.5.4 Certain SARs. Any SAR granted concurrently or in tandem with an Option will have the same post-termination provisions and exercisability periods as the Option to which it relates, unless the Committee otherwise provides.

Table of Contents

2.5.5 Committee Discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 2.5, in the event of, or in anticipation of, a termination of employment or service with the Company for any reason, other than Termination For Cause, the Committee may increase the portion of the Participant's Award available to the Participant, or Participant's Beneficiary or Personal Representative, as the case may be, or, subject to the provisions of Section 1.6, extend the exercisability period, upon such terms as the Committee expressly approves by resolution or by amendment to the Award Agreement.

3. Stock Appreciation Rights

(Including Limited Stock Appreciation Rights)

3.1 Grants. The Committee may grant to any Eligible Person Stock Appreciation Rights either concurrently with the grant of another Award or in respect of an outstanding Award, in whole or in part, or independently of any other Award. Any Stock Appreciation Right granted in connection with an Incentive Stock Option will contain such terms as may be required to comply with the provisions of Section 422 of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder, unless the holder otherwise agrees.

3.2 Pricing Limits. The pricing restrictions applicable to Options under Section 2.2.1 of this Plan shall apply as well to the base or reference price of SARs granted under this Plan.

3.3 Exercise of Stock Appreciation Rights.

3.3.1 Exercisability. Unless the Award Agreement or the Committee otherwise provides, a Stock Appreciation Right related to another Award will be exercisable at such time or times, and to the extent, that the related Award will be exercisable.

3.3.2 Effect on Available Shares. To the extent that a Stock Appreciation Right is exercised, only the actual number of delivered shares of Common Stock will be charged against the maximum amount of Common Stock that may be delivered pursuant to Awards under this Plan. The number of shares subject to the Stock Appreciation Right and the related Option of the Participant will, however, be reduced by the number of underlying shares as to which the exercise related, unless the Award Agreement otherwise provides.

3.3.3 Stand-Alone SARs. A Stock Appreciation Right granted independently of any other Award will be exercisable pursuant to the terms of the Award Agreement.

3.3.4 Proportionate Reduction If a SAR extends to less than all the shares covered by the related Award and if a portion of the related Award is thereafter exercised, the number of shares subject to the unexercised SAR shall be reduced only if and to the extent that the remaining number of shares covered by such related Award is less than the remaining number of shares subject to such SAR.

3.4 Payment

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

3.4.1 Amount. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, upon exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right and the attendant surrender of an exercisable portion of any related Award, the Participant will be entitled to receive subject to Section 6.5 payment of an amount determined by multiplying

- (a) the difference obtained by subtracting the exercise or base reference price per share of Common Stock under the related Award (if applicable) or the initial share value specified in the Award, from the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date of exercise of the Stock Appreciation Right, by
- (b) the number of shares with respect to which the Stock Appreciation Right has been exercised.

A-7

Table of Contents

3.4.2 Form of Payment. The Committee, in its sole discretion, will determine the form in which payment will be made of the amount determined under Section 3.4.1 above, either solely in cash, solely in shares of Common Stock (valued at Fair Market Value on the date of exercise of the Stock Appreciation Right), or partly in such shares and partly in cash, provided that the Committee has determined that such exercise and payment are consistent with applicable law. If the Committee permits the Participant to elect to receive cash or shares (or a combination thereof) upon such exercise, the election will be subject to any further conditions that the Committee may impose.

3.5 Limited Stock Appreciation Rights. The Committee may grant to any Eligible Person Stock Appreciation Rights exercisable only upon or in respect of a change in control or any other specified event (Limited SARs) and such Limited SARs may relate to or operate in tandem or combination with or substitution for Options, other SARs or other Awards (or any combination thereof), and may be payable in cash or shares based on the spread between the base price of the SAR and a price based upon or equal to the Fair Market Value of the Shares during a specified period or at a specified time within a specified period before, after or including the date of such event.

4. Restricted Stock Awards

4.1 Grants. Subject to Section 4.2, the Committee may grant one or more Restricted Stock Awards to any Eligible Person. Each Restricted Stock Award Agreement will specify the number of shares of Common Stock to be issued to the Participant, the date of such issuance, the consideration for such shares (but not less than the minimum lawful consideration under applicable state law) to be paid by the Participant, the extent (if any) to which and the time (if ever) at which the Participant will be entitled to dividends, voting and other rights in respect of the shares prior to vesting, and the restrictions (which may be based on performance criteria, passage of time or other factors or any combination thereof) imposed on such shares and the conditions of release or lapse of such restrictions. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, such restrictions will lapse in respect of 20% of the shares subject to the Award on the first anniversary of the Award Date and in respect of an additional 20% of the shares subject to the Award on the second, third, fourth and fifth anniversaries of the Award Date. Stock certificates evidencing shares of Restricted Stock pending the lapse of the restrictions (Restricted Shares) will bear a legend making appropriate reference to the restrictions imposed hereunder and will be held by the Company or by a third party designated by the Committee until the restrictions on the shares have lapsed and the shares have vested in accordance with the provisions of the Award and Section 1.7. Upon issuance of the Restricted Stock Award, the Participant may be required to provide such further assurance and documents as the Committee may require to enforce the restrictions.

4.2 Restrictions.

4.2.1 Pre-Vesting Restraints. Except as provided in Sections 4.1 and 1.9, Restricted Shares comprising any Restricted Stock Award may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise disposed of or encumbered, either voluntarily or involuntarily, until the restrictions on such shares have lapsed and the shares have become vested.

4.2.2 Dividend and Voting Rights. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable Award Agreement:

- (a) Participant receiving a Restricted Stock Award shall be entitled to vote such shares but shall not be entitled to dividends on any of the shares until the shares have vested; and
- (b) all dividends shall be retained in a restricted account until the shares have vested and shall revert to the Company to the extent that they fail to vest.

4.2.3 Cash Payments. If the Participant has been paid or received cash (including any dividends) in connection with the Restricted Stock Award, the Award Agreement will specify whether and to what extent

A-8

Table of Contents

such cash will be returned (with or without an earnings factor) as to any Restricted Shares that cease to be eligible for vesting.

- 4.3 *No Limit on Number of Restricted Shares.*** There is no limitation on the number of shares of Common Stock covered by the Plan that are available for Awards issued (or reissued) under this Plan as time-based Restricted Stock Awards for nominal or no consideration other than the par value.
- 4.4 *Return to the Company.*** Unless the Committee otherwise expressly provides, Restricted Shares that remain subject to restrictions at the time of termination of employment or service, or are subject to other conditions to vesting that have not been satisfied by the time specified in the applicable Award Agreement, will not vest and will be returned to the Company in such manner and on such terms as the Committee provides.

5. Performance Share Awards And Stock Bonuses

- 5.1 *Grants Of Performance Share Awards.*** The Committee may grant Performance Share Awards to Eligible Employees based upon such factors as the Committee deems relevant in light of the specific type and terms of the award. An Award Agreement will specify the maximum number of shares of Common Stock (if any) subject to the Performance Share Award, the consideration (but not less than the minimum lawful consideration) to be paid for any such shares as may be issuable to the Participant, the duration of the Award and the conditions upon which delivery of any shares or cash to the Participant will be based. The amount of cash or shares or other property that may be deliverable pursuant to such Award will be based upon the degree of attainment over a specified period of not more than 10 years (a performance cycle) as may be established by the Committee of such measure(s) of the performance of the Company (or any part thereof) or the Participant as may be established by the Committee. The Committee may provide for full or partial credit, prior to completion of such performance cycle or the attainment of the performance achievement specified in the Award, in the event of the Participant's death, Retirement, or Total Disability, a Change in Control Event or in such other circumstances as the Committee (consistent with Section 6.10.3(b), if applicable) may determine.
- 5.2 *Special (Section 162(m)) Performance-Based Share Awards.*** Options or SAR's granted with an exercise price not less than Fair Market Value at the applicable date of grant for Section 162(m) purposes to Eligible Employees which otherwise satisfy the conditions to deductibility under Section 162(m) of the Code are deemed Qualifying Awards. Such awards are intended and will be deemed performance-based awards under Section 162(m). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, and in addition to Qualifying Awards granted under other provisions of this Plan, other performance-based awards within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code (Performance-Based Awards), whether initially in the form of bonus stock, stock units, restricted stock, performance stock, phantom stock or other rights, including cash-only bonuses or other incentives, the vesting of which depends on the performance of the Company on a consolidated, segment, subsidiary, or division basis, with reference to revenue growth, net earnings (before or after taxes or before or after taxes, interest, depreciation, extra-ordinary items and/or amortization), cash flow, return on equity, return on assets or return on net investment, cost containment or reduction, or any combination thereof (the business criteria) relative to pre-established performance goals, may be granted under this Section 5.2. These terms are used as applied under generally accepted accounting principles and in the Company's financial reporting. The applicable business criterion or criteria, the specific performance goals and, if applicable, the objective formula or standard for computing the amount payable or the number of shares to be delivered if the performance goal is (or the performance goals are) attained, must be approved by the Committee in advance of applicable deadlines under the Code and while the performance relating to such goals remains substantially uncertain. The applicable performance measurement period may be not less than one (except as provided in Section 1.6) nor more than 10 years. No more than one performance cycle for awards payable only in cash and not related to shares, shall begin in any year. Other types of performance and non-performance awards may also be granted under the other provisions of this Plan. The

Table of Contents

following provisions relate to all Performance-Based Awards (other than Qualifying Awards) granted under this Plan:

5.2.1 Eligible Class. The eligible class of persons for Awards under this Section is officers of the Company.

5.2.2 Maximum Award. Grants or awards under this Section 5.2 may be paid in cash or shares or any combination thereof. In no event shall grants of share-based Awards made in any calendar year to any Eligible Employee under this Section 5.2 relate to more than 700,000 shares covered by the Plan. In no event shall grants to any Eligible Employee under this Plan of Awards payable only in cash and not related to shares provide for payment of more than \$2.5 million, times the number of years (not more than five), in the applicable performance period.

5.2.3 Committee Certification. To the extent required by Section 162(m), before any Performance-Based Award under this Section 5.2 is paid, the Committee must certify that the specific performance goals and any other material terms of the Performance-Based Award were satisfied.

5.2.4 Terms and Conditions of Awards. The Committee will have discretion to determine the restrictions or other limitations of the individual Awards under this Section 5.2 (including the authority to reduce Awards, payouts or vesting or to pay no Awards, in its sole discretion). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Plan to the contrary, the Committee shall have no discretion to increase the amount of cash or number of shares to be delivered upon attainment of the performance goals set forth in the Performance Award Agreement or to accelerate the vesting or exercisability of Awards in a manner that would preclude deductions pursuant to Section 162(m) of the Code.

5.2.5 Adjustments for Material Changes. Performance goals or other features of an Award under this Section 5.2 may provide that they (a) shall be adjusted to reflect a change in corporate capitalization, a corporate transaction (such as a reorganization, combination, separation, or merger) or a complete or partial corporate liquidation, or (b) shall be calculated either without regard for or to reflect any change in accounting policies or practices affecting the Company and/or the business criteria or performance goals or targets, or (c) shall be adjusted for any other circumstance or event, or (d) any combination of (a) through (c), but only to the extent in each case that such adjustment or determination in respect of Performance-Based Awards would be consistent with the requirements of Section 162(m) to qualify as performance-based compensation.

5.3 Other Stock Bonuses. The Committee may grant a Stock Bonus to any Eligible Person to reward exceptional or special services, contributions or achievements in the manner and on such terms and conditions (including any restrictions on such shares) as determined from time to time by the Committee. The number of shares so awarded will be determined by the Committee. The Award may be granted independently or in lieu of a cash bonus and may be paid in the form of Common Stock, Restricted Shares, an Option, Stock Units (payable in Common Stock or cash) or other Award.

5.4 Deferred Payments. The Committee may provide for the deferral of payment of any Qualifying Award, Performance Share Award or Stock Bonus under and in accordance with the specific terms of a non-qualified deferred compensation plan sponsored by the Company, provided that in the case of Qualifying Awards and Performance-Based Awards, the amount deferred shall be credited with earnings or dividend equivalents in accordance with Section 162 (m).

5.5 Cash Bonuses. The Committee may establish a program of annual incentive awards that are payable in cash to Eligible Persons based upon the extent to which performance goals are met during the performance period. The performance goals may depend upon the performance of the Company on a consolidated, subsidiary or division basis with reference to any one or more of the business criteria set forth in Section 5.2 or such other strategic goals or individual factors (or any combination of such criteria, goals, or factors).

5.6 *Alternative Payments.* In lieu of a cash payment of an Award payable in cash, the Committee may require or allow all or a portion of the Award to be paid or credited in the form of shares of Common Stock, Restricted Shares, Stock Units, an Option or other Award.

A-10

Table of Contents

6. Other Provisions

6.1.1 *Employment Status.* Status as an Eligible Person will not be construed as a commitment that any Award will be made under this Plan to an Eligible Person or to Eligible Persons generally.

6.1.2 *No Employment Contract.* Nothing contained in this Plan (or in any other documents related to this Plan or to any Award) will confer upon any Eligible Person or other Participant any right to continue in the employ or other service of the Company or constitute any contract or agreement of employment or other service, nor will interfere in any way with the right of the Company to otherwise change such person's compensation or other benefits or to terminate the employment or other service of such person, with or without cause, but nothing contained in this Plan or any related document will adversely affect any independent contractual right of such person without the Participant's consent.

6.1.3 *Plan Not Funded.* Awards payable under this Plan will be payable in shares or from the general assets of the Company, and (except as provided in Section 1.4.3) no special or separate reserve, fund or deposit will be made to assure payment of such Awards. No Participant, Beneficiary or other person will have any right, title or interest in any fund or in any specific asset (including shares of Common Stock, except as expressly otherwise provided) of the Company by reason of any Award hereunder. Neither the provisions of this Plan (or of any related documents), nor the creation or adoption of this Plan, nor any action taken pursuant to the provisions of this Plan will create, or be construed to create, a trust of any kind or a fiduciary relationship between the Company and any Participant, Beneficiary or other person. To the extent that a Participant, Beneficiary or other person acquires a right to receive payment pursuant to any Award hereunder, such right will be no greater than the right of any unsecured general creditor of the Company.

6.2 *Adjustments; Acceleration.*

6.2.1 *Adjustments.* Upon or in contemplation of any reclassification, recapitalization, stock split (including a stock split in the form of a stock dividend) or reverse stock split; any merger, combination, consolidation, or other reorganization; any spin-off, split-up, or similar extraordinary dividend distribution (spin-off) in respect of the Common Stock (whether in the form of securities or property); any exchange of Common Stock or other securities of the Company, or any similar, unusual or extraordinary corporate transaction in respect of the Common Stock; or a sale of all or substantially all the assets of the Company as an entirety (asset sale); then the Committee shall, in such manner, to such extent (if any) and at such time as it deems appropriate equitable in the circumstances:

- (a) in any of such events, proportionately adjust any or all of (1) the number and type of shares of Common Stock (or other securities) that thereafter may be made the subject of Awards (including the specific maxima and numbers of shares set forth elsewhere in this Plan), (2) the number, amount and type of shares of Common Stock (or other securities or property) subject to any or all outstanding Awards, (3) the grant, purchase, or exercise price of any or all outstanding Awards, (4) the securities, cash or other property deliverable upon exercise of any outstanding Awards, or (5) (subject to limitations under Section 6.10.3(b)) the performance standards appropriate to any outstanding Awards, or
- (b) in the case of a reclassification, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, combination, or other reorganization, spin-off or asset sale, make provision for a cash payment or for the substitution or exchange of any or all outstanding share-based Awards or the cash, securities or property deliverable to the holder of any or all outstanding share-based Awards, based upon the distribution or consideration payable to holders of the Common Stock upon or in respect of such event.

In each case, with respect to Awards of Incentive Stock Options, no adjustment will be made that would cause the Plan to violate Section 424(a) of the Code or any successor provisions without the written consent of holders materially adversely affected thereby.

Table of Contents

In any of such events, the Committee may take such action prior to such event to the extent that the Committee deems the action necessary to permit the Participant to realize the benefits intended to be conveyed with respect to the underlying shares in the same manner as is or will be available to shareholders generally.

6.2.2 Acceleration of Awards Upon Change in Control. The Committee may, through the terms of the Award or otherwise, provide that any or all of the following shall occur, upon the Company's termination of an Eligible Employee's employment within twelve (12) months following a Change in Control Event for any other reason other than Termination For Cause :

- (a) each Option and stock Appreciation Right awarded to such Eligible Employee becomes immediately exercisable;
- (b) Restricted Stock awarded to such Eligible Employee immediately vests free of restrictions; and/or
- (c) each performance Share Award awarded to such Eligible Employee will become payable to the Participant.

Without limiting the foregoing, the Committee may either (i) provide that any of the foregoing events may occur upon a Change in Control Event without regard to whether any Eligible Employee's employment terminates or (ii) provide that any of the foregoing events may occur prior to a Change in Control Event without regard to whether any Eligible Employee's employment terminates, each on such terms and conditions as the Committee may specify. Any acceleration of Awards will only become effective to the extent such acceleration is in conformity with applicable legal requirements and, if necessary to accomplish the purposes of the acceleration or if the circumstances require.

6.2.3 Possible Early Termination of Accelerated Awards. If any Option or other right to acquire Common Stock under this Plan has been fully accelerated as required or permitted by Section 6.2.2 but is not exercised prior to (a) a dissolution of the Company, or (b) an event described in Section 6.2.1 that the Company does not survive, or (c) the consummation of an event described in Section 6.1 involving a Change of Control approved by the Board, such Option or right will terminate, subject to any provision that has been expressly made by the Board, the Committee through a plan of reorganization approved by the Board or otherwise for the survival, substitution, assumption, exchange or other settlement of such Option or right.

6.3 Effect Of Termination of Service on Awards. The Committee will establish the effect of a termination of employment or service on the rights and benefits for each Award under this Plan and in so doing may make distinctions based upon the cause of termination.

6.3.1 Termination of Consulting or Affiliate Services. If the Participant is not an Eligible Employee or director and provides services as an Other Eligible Person, the Committee shall be the sole judge of whether the Participant continues to render services to the Company, unless a contract or the Award otherwise provides. If in these circumstances the Committee notifies the Participant in writing that a termination of services of the Participant for purposes of this Plan has occurred, then (unless the contract or Award otherwise expressly provides), the Participant's termination of services for purposes of Section 2.5, 3, 4.3 or 5 shall be the date which is 10 days after the Committee's mailing of the notice or, in the case of a Termination For Cause, the date of the mailing of the notice.

6.3.2 Events Not Deemed Terminations of Service. Unless Company policy or the Committee otherwise provides, the employment or service relationship shall not be considered terminated in the case of (i) sick leave, (ii) military leave, or (iii) any other leave of absence authorized by the Company or the Committee; provided that unless reemployment upon the expiration of such leave is guaranteed by contract or law, such leave is for a period of not more than 90 days. In the case of any Eligible Employee on an approved leave of absence, continued vesting of the Award while on leave from the employ of the Company shall be suspended, unless the Committee otherwise provides or applicable law

otherwise requires. In no event shall an Award be exercised after the expiration of the term set forth in the Award Agreement.

A-12

Table of Contents

6.3.3 Effect of Change of Subsidiary Status. For purposes of this Plan and any Award, if an entity ceases to be a Subsidiary a termination of employment or service will be deemed to have occurred with respect to each Eligible Person in respect of the Subsidiary who does not continue as an Eligible Person in respect of another entity within the Company.

6.4 Compliance with Laws. This Plan, the granting and vesting of Awards under this Plan, the offer, issuance and delivery of shares of Common Stock, the acceptance of promissory notes and/or the payment of money under this Plan or under Awards are subject to compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations (including but not limited to state and federal securities law, federal margin requirements) and to such approvals by any listing, regulatory or governmental authority as may, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, be necessary or advisable in connection therewith. In addition, any securities delivered under this Plan may be subject to any special restrictions that the Committee may require to preserve a pooling of interests under generally accepted accounting principles. The person acquiring any securities under this Plan will, if requested by the Company, provide such assurances and representations to the Company as the Committee may deem necessary or desirable to assure compliance with all applicable legal and accounting requirements.

6.5 Tax Matters.

6.5.1 Provision for Tax Withholding or Offset. Upon any exercise, vesting, or payment of any Award or upon the disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option prior to satisfaction of the holding period requirements of Section 422 of the Code, the Company shall have the right at its option to (a) require the Participant (or Personal Representative or Beneficiary, as the case may be) to pay or provide for payment of the amount of any taxes which the Company may be required to withhold with respect to such Award event or payment or (b) deduct from any amount payable in cash the amount of any taxes which the Company may be required to withhold with respect to such cash payment. In any case where a tax is required to be withheld in connection with the delivery of shares of Common Stock under this Plan, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, permit the Participant to elect to have the Company reduce the number of shares to be delivered by (or otherwise to reacquire) the appropriate number of shares valued at their Fair Market Value, to satisfy such withholding obligation, determined in each case as of the trading day next preceding the applicable date of exercise, vesting or payment, as applicable.

6.5.2 Tax Loans. If so provided in the Award Agreement, the Company may, to the extent permitted by law, authorize a short-term loan of not more than nine (9) months to an Eligible Person (other than an executive officer (as defined in Rule 3b-7 under the Exchange Act) or director of the Company) in the amount of any taxes that the Company may be required to withhold with respect to shares of Common Stock received (or disposed of, as the case may be) pursuant to a transaction described in Section 6.5.1. Such a loan will be for a term, at a rate of interest and pursuant to such other terms and conditions as the Committee, under applicable law, may establish and such loan need not comply with the other provisions of Section 1.8.

6.6 Plan Amendment, Termination And Suspension.

6.6.1 Board Authorization. The Board may, at any time, terminate or, from time to time, amend, modify or suspend this Plan, in whole or in part. No Awards may be granted during any suspension of this Plan or after termination of this Plan, but the Committee will retain jurisdiction as to Awards then outstanding in accordance with the terms of this Plan.

6.6.2 Shareholder Approval. To the extent then required under Sections 162(m), 422 and 424 of the Code or any other applicable law, or deemed necessary or advisable by the Board, any amendment to this Plan shall be subject to shareholder approval.

Table of Contents

6.6.3 Amendments to Awards. Without limiting any other express authority of the Committee under (but subject to) the express limits of this Plan, the Committee by agreement or resolution may waive conditions of or limitations on Awards to Participants that the Committee in the prior exercise of its discretion has imposed, without the consent of a Participant, and may make other changes to the terms and conditions of Awards that do not affect in any manner materially adverse to the Participant, the Participant's rights and benefits under an Award.

6.6.4 Limitations on Amendments to Plan and Awards. No amendment, suspension or termination of this Plan or change of or affecting any outstanding Award will, without written consent of the Participant, affect in any manner materially adverse to the Participant any rights or benefits of the Participant or obligations of the Company under any Award granted under this Plan prior to the effective date of such change. Changes contemplated by Section 6.2 will not be deemed to constitute changes or amendments for purposes of this Section 6.6.

6.7 Privileges of Stock Ownership. Except as otherwise expressly authorized by the Committee or this Plan, a Participant will not be entitled to any privilege of stock ownership as to any shares of Common Stock not actually delivered to and held of record by the Participant. No adjustment will be made for dividends or other rights as a shareholder for which a record date is prior to such date of delivery.

6.8 Effective Date of the Plan. This Plan is effective as of August 5, 1998, the date of approval by the Board. The Plan shall be submitted for and subject to shareholder approval.

6.9 Term of the Plan. No Award will be granted under this Plan after August 4, 2008 (the termination date). Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Plan or in an applicable Award Agreement, any Award granted prior to the termination date may extend beyond such date, and all authority of the Committee with respect to Awards hereunder, including the authority to amend an Award, will continue during any suspension of this Plan and in respect of Awards outstanding on the termination date.

6.10 Governing Law/Construction/Severability.

6.10.1 Choice of Law. This Plan, the Awards, all documents evidencing Awards and all other related documents will be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

6.10.2 Severability. If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any provision invalid and unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Plan will continue in effect.

6.10.3 Plan Construction.

- (a) **Rule 16b-3.** It is the intent of the Company that the Awards and transactions permitted by Awards generally satisfy and be interpreted in a manner that, in the case of Participants who are or may be subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, satisfies the applicable requirements of Rule 16b-3 so that such persons (unless they otherwise agree) will be entitled to the benefits of Rule 16b-3 or other exemptive rules under Section 16 of the Exchange Act in respect of those transactions and will not be subjected to avoidable liability.
- (b) **Section 162(m).** It is the further intent of the Company that (to the extent the Company or Awards under this Plan may be or become subject to limitations on deductibility under Section 162(m) of the Code), the Initial Options and Options or SARs subsequently granted with an exercise or base price not less than Fair Market Value on the date of grant and

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Performance-Based Awards under Section 5.2 of this Plan that are granted to or held by a person subject to Section 162(m) of the Code will qualify as performance-based compensation or otherwise be exempt from deductibility limitations under Section 162(m) of the Code, to the extent that the Committee authorizing the Award (or the payment thereof, as the case may be) satisfies any applicable administrative requirements thereof. This Plan will be interpreted consistent with such intent.

A-14

Table of Contents

6.11 Captions. Captions and headings are given to the sections and subsections of this Plan solely as a convenience to facilitate reference. Such headings will not be deemed in any way material or relevant to the construction or interpretation of this Plan or any provision thereof.

6.12 Stock-Based Awards in Substitution for Stock Options or Awards Granted by Other Corporations. Awards may be granted to Eligible Persons under this Plan in substitution for employee stock options, SARs, restricted stock or other stock-based awards granted by other entities to persons who are or who will become Eligible Persons in respect of the Company, in connection with a distribution, merger or reorganization by or with the granting entity or an affiliated entity, or the acquisition by the Company, directly or indirectly, of all or a substantial part of the stock or assets of the employing entity.

6.13 Non-Exclusivity of Plan. Nothing in this Plan will limit or be deemed to limit the authority of the Board or the Committee to grant awards or authorize any other compensation, with or without reference to the Common Stock, under any other plan or authority.

7. Definitions

Award means an award of any Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock, Stock Bonus, performance share award, dividend equivalent or deferred payment right or other right or security that would constitute a derivative security under Rule 16a-1(c) of the Exchange Act, or any combination thereof, whether alternative or cumulative, authorized by and granted under this Plan.

Award Agreement means any writing setting forth the terms of an Award that has been authorized by the Committee.

Award Date means the date upon which the Committee took the action granting an Award or such later date as the Committee designates as the grant or award date at the time of the Award or, in the case of Awards under Section 8, the applicable dates set forth therein.

Award Period means the period beginning on an Award Date and ending on the expiration date of such Award.

Beneficiary means the person, persons, trust or trusts designated by a Participant or, in the absence of a designation, entitled by will or the laws of descent and distribution, to receive the benefits specified in the Award Agreement and under this Plan if the Participant dies, and means the Participant's executor or administrator if no other Beneficiary is designated and able to act under the circumstances.

Board means the Board of Directors of Korn/Ferry International.

Change in Control Event means any of the following:

- (a) an acquisition by any Person (excluding one or more Excluded Persons) of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) in more than 50% of the voting securities representing votes entitled to be cast generally in the election of directors (**Voting Securities**) of the Company; or

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

- (b) approval by the shareholders of the Company of a plan of merger, consolidation, or reorganization of the Company or a sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's consolidated assets as an entirety (collectively, a **Business Combination**), other than a Business Combination (1) in which all or substantially all of the holders of Voting Securities of the Company hold or receive directly or indirectly 50% or more of the Voting Securities of the entity resulting from the Business Combination (or a parent company), and (2) after which no Person (other than any one or more of the Excluded Persons) owns more than 50% of the Voting Securities of the entity resulting from the Business Combination (or a parent company) who did not own directly or indirectly at least that amount of Voting Securities of the Company immediately before the Business Combination;

A-15

Table of Contents

- (c) approval by the Board and (if required by law) by the shareholders of the Company of a plan to consummate the dissolution or complete liquidation of the Company;
- (d) during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of such period constituted the Board and any new director (other than a director designated by a person who has entered into an agreement or arrangement with the Company to effect a transaction described in clause (a) or (b) of this definition) whose appointment, election or nomination for election was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the directors then still in office who either were directors at the beginning of the period or whose appointment, election or nomination for election was previously so approved, cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the Board or, if applicable, the entity resulting from a Business Combination (or a parent company); or
- (e) such other events as the Committee or the Board may from time to time specify.

For purposes of determining whether a Change in Control Event has occurred, a transaction includes all transactions in a series of related transactions.

Code means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time.

Commission means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Committee means the Board or a committee appointed by the Board to administer this Plan, provided that any committee shall be comprised only of two or more directors subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) In respect of any decision of the Committee made at a time when the Participant affected by the decision may be subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, and the Awards subject to such decision are intended to satisfy the requirements for exemption therefrom, the decision shall be approved by a committee comprised of outside directors (as this term is defined in Section 162(m)) to the extent required by Section 162(m).
- (b) In respect of any decision of the Committee made at a time when the Participant affected by the decision may be subject to Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, and the Awards subject to such decision are intended to satisfy the requirements for exemption therefrom, the decision shall be approved by the Board or by a committee comprised of Non-Employee Directors (as this term is defined in Rule 16(b)-3 of the Exchange Act) to the extent required by Rule 16 (b)-3.

Common Stock means the Common Stock of Korn/Ferry International and such other securities or property as may become the subject of Awards, or become subject to Awards, pursuant to an adjustment made under Section 6.2 of this Plan.

Company means Korn/Ferry International, a Delaware Corporation, its successors, and/or its Subsidiaries, as the context requires, provided that with respect to the Common Stock, or the grant, exercise, or disposition of an Award or the provisions of Sections 1.8, 5.2.1, 6.2.1, 6.2.3, 6.4 and 6.10, Company means only Korn/Ferry International.

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Eligible Employee means an officer (whether or not a director) or employee of the Company.

Eligible Person means an Eligible Employee, or any Other Eligible Person, as determined by the Committee.

Exchange Act means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time.

Excluded Person means:

- (a) the Company;
- (b) any person described in and satisfying the conditions of Rule 13d-1(b) (1) under the Exchange Act);

A-16

Table of Contents

- (c) any employee benefit plan of Korn/Ferry International; or
- (d) any affiliates (within the meaning of the Exchange Act), successors, or heirs, descendants or members of the immediate families of the individuals identified in part (b) of this definition.

Fair Market Value on any date means

- (a) if the stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange or on another national securities exchange, the closing sales price of the stock on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on such date, or, if there is no trading of the stock as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on such date, then the closing sales price as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange or such other exchange on the next preceding date on which there was trading in such shares;
- (b) if the stock is not listed or admitted to trade on a national securities exchange, the closing price for the stock on such date, as furnished by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (NASD) through the NASDAQ National Market Reporting System or a similar organization if the NASD is no longer reporting such information;
- (c) if the stock is not listed or admitted to trade on a national securities exchange and is not reported on the National Market Reporting System, the mean between the bid and asked price for the stock on such date, as furnished by the NASD or a similar organization; or
- (d) if the stock is not listed or admitted to trade on a national securities exchange, is not reported on the National Market Reporting System and if bid and asked prices for the stock are not furnished by the NASD or a similar organization, the value as established by the Committee at such time for purposes of this Plan.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock for purposes of determining the exercise price of the Initial Options granted to employees under this Plan will be deemed to be the initial price at which the Common Stock is offered to the public in the IPO.

Incentive Stock Option or **ISO** means an Option that is designated and intended as an incentive stock option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, the award of that contains such provisions (including but not limited to the receipt of shareholder approval of this Plan, if the award is made prior to such approval) and is made under such circumstances and to such persons as may be necessary to comply with that section.

Initial Options means Options granted during or at the completion of an IPO.

IPO means a bona fide, firm commitment underwritten public offering of the Common Stock pursuant to a registration statement on Form S-1 (or other applicable form) that is declared effective under the Securities Act that results in Korn/Ferry International becoming a registered company in respect of the Common Stock under the Exchange Act.

Korn/Ferry International means Korn/Ferry International, a Delaware Corporation, and its successors (if any).

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

Nonqualified Stock Option means an Option that is designated as a Nonqualified Stock Option and will include any Option intended as an Incentive Stock Option that fails to meet the applicable legal requirements thereof. Any Option granted hereunder that is not designated as an incentive stock option will be deemed to be designated a nonqualified stock option under this Plan and not an incentive stock option under the Code.

Non-Employee Director for purposes of Section 8 means a member of the Board of Directors of Korn/Ferry International who is not an officer or employee of the Company or any 50% or greater parent corporation.

A-17

Table of Contents

Non-Employee Director Participant means a Non-Employee Director who holds an outstanding Award under the provisions of Section 8.

Option means an option to purchase Common Stock granted under this Plan. The Committee will designate any Option granted to an Eligible Person as a Nonqualified Stock Option or an Incentive Stock Option.

Other Eligible Person means (a) any director, or (b) any individual consultant or advisor or agent who renders or has rendered bona fide services (other than services in connection with the offering or sale of securities of the Company in a capital raising transaction) to the Company, and who (to the extent provided in the next sentence) is selected to participate in this Plan by the Committee. A person who is neither an employee nor officer who provides bona fide services to the Company may be selected as an Other Eligible Person only if such person's participation in this Plan would not adversely affect (a) Korn/Ferry International's eligibility to use Form S-8 to register under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the offering and sale of shares issuable under this Plan by Korn/Ferry International or (b) Korn/Ferry International's compliance with any other applicable laws.

Performance Share Award means an Award of a right to receive shares of Common Stock under Section 5.1, or to receive shares of Common Stock or other compensation (including cash) under Section 5.2, the issuance or payment of that is contingent upon, among other conditions, the attainment of performance objectives specified by the Committee.

Person means an association, a corporation, an individual, a partnership, a trust or any other entity or organization, including a governmental entity and a person as that term is used under Section 13(d) or 14 (d) of the Exchange Act.

Personal Representative means the person or persons who, upon the disability or legal incompetence of a Participant, has acquired on behalf of the Participant, by legal proceeding or otherwise, the power to exercise the rights or receive benefits under this Plan by virtue of having become the legal representative of the Participant.

Plan means this Performance Award Plan, as may be amended from time to time.

Restricted Shares or **Restricted Stock** means shares of Common Stock awarded to a Participant under this Plan, subject to payment of such consideration, if any, and such conditions on vesting (which may include, among others, the passage of time, specified performance objectives or other factors) and such transfer and other restrictions as are established in or pursuant to this Plan and the related Award Agreement, for so long as such shares remain unvested or restricted under the terms of the applicable Award Agreement.

Retirement means retirement from active service as an employee or officer of the Company after age 65.

Rule 16b-3 means Rule 16b-3 as promulgated by the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act, as amended from time to time.

Section 16 Person means a person subject to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

Section 162(m) means Section 162(m) of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Securities Act means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time.

Stock Appreciation Right or **SAR** means a right authorized under this Plan to receive a number of shares of Common Stock or an amount of cash, or a combination of shares and cash, the aggregate amount or value of which is determined by reference to a change in the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock.

Table of Contents

Stock Bonus means an Award of shares of Common Stock granted under this Plan for no consideration other than past services and without restriction other than such transfer or other restrictions as the Committee may deem advisable to assure compliance with law.

Stock Unit means a bookkeeping entry which serves as a unit of measurement relative to a share of Common Stock for purposes of determining the payment of a deferred benefit or right under the Plan.

Subsidiary means any corporation or other entity a majority of whose outstanding voting stock or voting power is beneficially owned directly or indirectly by Korn/Ferry International.

Termination For Cause means (unless otherwise expressly provided in the Award Agreement or another contract) a termination of service, based upon a finding by the Company, acting in good faith and based on its reasonable belief at the time, that the Participant:

- (a) is or has been dishonest, incompetent, or negligent in the discharge of his or her duties to the Company; or has refused to perform stated or assigned duties; or
- (b) has committed a theft or embezzlement, or a breach of confidentiality or unauthorized disclosure or use of inside information, customer lists, trade secrets or other confidential information, or a breach of fiduciary duty involving personal profit, or a willful or negligent violation of any law, rule or regulation or of Company rules or policy, in any material respect; or has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations or similar offenses); or
- (c) has materially breached any of the provisions of any agreement with the Company or a parent corporation; or
- (d) has engaged in unfair competition with, or otherwise acted intentionally in a manner injurious to the reputation, business or assets of the Company; or has induced a customer to break or terminate any contract with the Company or an affiliate; or has induced any principal for whom the Company (or an affiliate) acts as agent to terminate such agency relationship.

A Termination For Cause shall be deemed to occur (subject to reinstatement upon a contrary final determination by the Board or Committee) on the date when the Company first delivers notice to the Participant of a finding of Termination For Cause and shall be final in all respects on the date following the opportunity to be heard and written notice to the Participant that his or her service is terminated.

Total Disability means any medically determinable physical or mental condition or impairment which prevents the Participant from performing the essential functions of his or her job with the Company that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a period of 90 consecutive days or for shorter periods aggregating 180 days in any consecutive 12 month period.

8. Non-Employee Director Options

8.1 Participation. Awards under this Section 8 will be made only to Non-Employee Directors and will be evidenced by Award Agreements substantially in the form of Exhibit A or the form approved by the Board.

8.2 Option Grants.

8.2.1 Initial Award. Any person who is not an officer or employee of the Company and who is or who thereafter becomes a director of Korn/Ferry International upon completion of an IPO and the registration of the Common Stock of Korn/Ferry International under the Exchange Act, will automatically be granted (without any action by the Board or Committee) a Nonqualified Stock Option (the Award Date of which will be the tenth (10th) trading day after the date of such registration or the time such person takes office, as the case may be) to purchase 2,500 shares of Common Stock.

A-19

Table of Contents

8.2.2 Subsequent Annual Awards. Subject to Section 8.2.3, at the close of trading on the day of the annual shareholders meeting in each year during the term of the Plan commencing in 1999, there will be granted automatically (without any action by the Committee or the Board) a Nonqualified Stock Option (the Award Date of which will be such date) to each Non-Employee Director then continuing in office to purchase 2,500 shares of Common Stock.

8.2.3 Maximum Number of Options/Shares. Annual grants that would otherwise exceed the maximum number of shares under Section 1.4.1 will be prorated within such limitation. A Non-Employee Director will not receive more than one Nonqualified Stock Option under this Section 8.2 in any calendar year.

8.3 Option Price. The purchase price per share of the Common Stock covered by each Option granted pursuant to Section 8.2 will be 100% of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on the Award Date. The exercise price of any Option granted under this Section will be paid in full at the time of each (i) purchase in cash or by check, (ii) in shares of Common Stock valued at their Fair Market Value on the date of exercise of the Option and, if the shares were acquired from the Company, owned by the Participant at least six months prior to the date of exercise, (iii) delivery of a properly executed exercise notice together with irrevocable instructions to a broker to promptly deliver to the Company the amount of sale or loan proceeds required to pay the exercise price, or (iv) any combination of the foregoing methods of payment.

8.4 Option Period and Exercisability. Each Option granted under this Section 8 and all rights or obligations thereunder will expire on the day before the 10th anniversary of the Award Date and will be subject to earlier termination as provided below. Unless the Committee provides otherwise, an Option granted under Section 8.2 will become exercisable on the Award Date.

8.5 Termination of Directorship. If a Non-Employee Director's services as a member of the Board terminate for any reason, an Option granted pursuant to this Section 8 and then held by the director, to the extent the Option is then exercisable, will remain exercisable for 60 months after the date of termination or until the expiration of the stated term of the Option, whichever first occurs. Any portion of an Option granted pursuant to this Section 8 that is not exercisable at the time of the termination of service will terminate upon termination of service.

8.6 Adjustments; Acceleration Upon a Change in Control Event; Termination. Options granted under this Section 8 will be subject to adjustment, assumption, conversion, substitution or exchange, termination and acceleration as provided in Section 6.2, but in the case of a Change in Control Event only to the extent that the changes and any Board or Committee action in respect thereof (i) are effected pursuant to the terms of a reorganization agreement approved by shareholders of Korn/Ferry International or otherwise consistent with the effect of the event on Options held by persons other than executive officers or directors of Korn/Ferry International and (ii) are consistent in respect of the underlying shares with the effect on shareholders generally.

Table of Contents

APPENDIX B

AMENDED AND RESTATED AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Composition

The Audit Committee (the **Committee**) shall be comprised of at least three directors the Board of Directors (the **Board**) has determined is independent under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Committee members shall be appointed by the Board based on nominations recommended by the Company's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and for such term or terms as the Board may determine.

Each member of the Committee shall be financially literate, as determined by the Board, and at least one member of the Committee shall be an audit committee financial expert, as determined by the Board in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (**SEC**) rules.

No director may serve as a member of the Committee if such director serves on the audit committees of more than two other public companies unless the Board determines that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such director to effectively serve on the Committee and discloses this determination in the Company's annual proxy statement.

No member of the Committee may receive any compensation from the Company other than (i) director and committee fees, which may be received in cash, stock options or other in-kind consideration ordinarily available to directors; (ii) a pension or other deferred compensation for prior service that is not contingent on future service; and (iii) any other regular benefits that other directors receive.

The Board shall designate one member of the Committee as its chairperson. In the event of a tie vote on any issue, the chairperson's vote shall decide the issue.

Purposes

The purposes of the Committee are:

1. to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in its oversight of:
 - i. the Company's accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and internal audit controls and procedures;

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

- ii. the integrity of the Company's financial statements;
 - iii. the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
 - iv. the outside auditors' qualifications and independence; and
 - v. the performance of the outside auditors and the Company's internal audit function.
2. to prepare the report required to be prepared by the Committee pursuant to the rules of the SEC for inclusion in the Company's annual proxy statement.

The function of the Committee is oversight. The management of the Company is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements. Management and the internal auditing department are responsible for maintaining appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and internal controls and procedures that provide for compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. The independent auditors are responsible for planning and carrying out a proper audit of the Company's annual financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and reviewing the Company's annual financial statements prior to the filing of the Annual Report on Form 10-K, and each Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

B-1

Table of Contents

Meetings of the Committee

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, either in person or telephonically, and at such times and places as the Audit Committee shall determine. The Committee shall meet separately at least quarterly with management, the general counsel, the director of the internal auditing department and the outside auditors to discuss any matters the Committee or any of these persons or firms believe should be discussed privately. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditors to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. The Audit Committee shall report regularly to the full Board with respect to its activities. The majority of the members of the Audit Committee shall constitute a quorum. Reports on all Committee meetings will be provided to the Board.

Duties and Powers

To carry out its purposes, the Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. With respect to the independent auditor:
 - i. to be directly responsible, in its capacity as a committee of the Board, for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the outside auditor. In this regard, the Committee shall appoint and retain, subject to ratification by the Company's stockholders, compensate, evaluate, and terminate when appropriate, the outside auditor, which shall report directly to the Committee;
 - ii. to approve in advance all audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the outside auditor, and establish policies and procedures for the pre-approval of audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the outside auditor;
 - iii. to ensure that the outside auditors prepare and deliver annually a statement (it being understood that the independent auditors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the Auditor's Statement) describing: (A) the outside auditor's internal quality-control procedures; and (B) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the outside auditor, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues, and to discuss with the outside auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the outside auditors' statement that may impact the quality of audit services or the objectivity and independence of the outside auditors, including each non-audit service provided to the Company and the matters set forth in Independence Standards Board No. 1;
 - iv. to discuss with management the timing and process for implementing the rotation of the lead audit partner and the reviewing partner, and to consider whether there should be a regular rotation of the audit firm itself;
 - v. to take into account the opinions of management and the Company's internal auditors in assessing the outside auditors' qualifications, performance and independence; and
 - vi. to receive reports from the outside auditor and management regarding, and review and discuss the adequacy and effectiveness of, the Company's internal controls, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls and significant changes in internal controls reported to the Committee by the outside auditor or management.

2. With respect to the internal auditing department:
 - i. to review the appointment and replacement of the director of the internal auditing department;
 - ii. to review the annual audit plan of the internal audit function;

B-2

Table of Contents

- iii. to advise the director of the internal auditing department that he or she is expected to provide to the Committee summaries of and, as appropriate, the significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditing department and management's responses thereto; and
 - iv. to review and discuss with the director of the internal auditing department the scope and results of the internal audit program
3. With respect to financial reporting principles and policies and internal controls:
- i. to maintain open channels of communication between the Board, management, the internal auditing department and the outside auditors and to advise them that they are expected to provide to the Committee a timely analysis of significant financial reporting issues and practices;
 - ii. to consider any reports or communications (and management's and/or the internal audit department's responses thereto) submitted to the Committee by the outside auditors, including reports and communications required by or referred to in SAS 61 (as codified by AU Section 380) or Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as may be modified or supplemented, and/or related to:
 - a. deficiencies noted in the audit in the design or operation of internal controls;
 - b. consideration of fraud in a financial statement audit;
 - c. detection of illegal acts;
 - d. the outside auditors' responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards;
 - e. any restriction on audit scope;
 - f. significant accounting policies;
 - g. significant issues discussed with the national office;
 - h. management judgments and accounting estimates;
 - i. adjustments arising from the audit;
 - j. the responsibility of the independent auditor for other information in documents containing audited financial statements;
 - k. disagreements with management;
 - l. consultation by management with other auditors/accountants;

Edgar Filing: KORN FERRY INTERNATIONAL - Form DEF 14A

- m. major issues discussed with management prior to retention of the outside auditor;
 - n. difficulties encountered with management in performing the audit;
 - o. the outside auditors' judgments about the quality of the entity's accounting principles; and
 - p. the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the Company's internal audit function.
- iii. to meet with management, the director of the internal auditing department and the independent auditors:
- a. to review and discuss with the outside auditor: (A) the scope of the audit, the results of the annual audit examination by the auditor, and any problems or difficulties the auditor encountered in the course of its audit work and management's response; and (B) any reports of the outside auditor with respect to interim periods;
 - b. to consider, at least annually, the independence of the outside auditor, including whether the outside auditors' provision of permissible non-audit services to the Company is compatible with maintaining the independence of the outside auditors, and obtain and review a report by the outside auditor describing any relationships between the outside auditor and the Company and any other relationships that may adversely affect the independence of the auditor;

B-3

Table of Contents

- c. to review and discuss with management and the outside auditor the annual audited and quarterly financial statements of the Company, including: (A) an analysis of the auditor's judgment as to the quality of the Company's accounting principles, setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements; (B) the Company's disclosures under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, including accounting policies that may be regarded as critical; and (C) major issues regarding the Company's accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles and financial statement presentations;
 - d. to recommend to the Board based on the review and discussion described in paragraphs (a) - (c) above, whether the financial statements should be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K;
 - e. to discuss the unaudited quarterly financial statements and the results of quarterly reviews performed by the independent auditors prior to the filing of the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q;
 - f. to discuss any significant matters arising from any audit including any audit problems or difficulties, whether raised by management, the internal auditing department or the independent auditors, relating to the Company's financial statements (and resolve any disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting);
 - g. to discuss any difficulties the independent auditors encountered in the course of the audit, including any restrictions on their activities or access to requested information and any significant disagreements with management;
 - h. to discuss any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the independent auditors but were passed (as immaterial or otherwise), any communications between the audit team and their national office with respect to auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement and any managerial or internal control letter issued, or proposed to be issued, by the independent auditors to the Company;
 - i. to review the form of opinion the independent auditors propose to render to the Board and stockholders;
 - j. to discuss guidelines and policies governing the process by which senior management of the Company and the relevant departments of the Company assess and manage the Company's exposure to risk, and to discuss the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures; and
 - k. to obtain from the independent auditors assurance that the audit was conducted in a manner consistent with Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which sets forth certain procedures to be followed in any audit of financial statements required under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- iv. to discuss with the Company's general counsel and/or outside counsel any significant legal, compliance or regulatory matters that may have a material effect on the financial statements, or the Company's business, financial statements or compliance policies, including material notices to or inquiries received from governmental agencies;
 - v. to review and discuss earnings press releases and corporate practices with respect to earnings press releases and financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and ratings agencies;
 - vi. to discuss the types of financial information and earnings guidance provided, and the types of presentations made, to analysts and rating agencies; and

- vii. to establish clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditors.

B-4

Table of Contents

4. With respect to reporting and recommendations:
 - i. to prepare such written affirmation regarding the Committee as is required by New York Stock Exchange corporate governance listing standards;
 - ii. to make such recommendations with respect to the above and other matters as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate;
 - iii. to prepare and review with the Board an annual performance evaluation of the Committee, which evaluation must compare the performance of the Committee with the requirements of this charter, and to review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board.; and
 - iv. to receive reports from management regarding, and review and discuss the adequacy and effectiveness of, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures
5. To establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls or auditing matters, and for the confidential, anonymous submission by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
6. To oversee the Company's compliance systems with respect to legal and regulatory requirements and review the Company's codes of conduct and programs to monitor compliance with such codes.

Resources and Authority of the Committee

The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including full access to all books and records, facilities and personnel of the Company and the authority to select, retain, terminate, and approve the fees and other retention terms of special or independent counsel, accountants or other experts, as it deems appropriate, without seeking approval of the Board or management.

The Committee may, in its discretion, delegate all or a portion of its duties and responsibilities to one or more members of the Committee, in accordance with SEC rules.

The Audit Committee shall have the authority to retain such outside counsel, accountants, experts and other advisors as it determines appropriate to assist it in the performance of its functions and shall receive appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, from the Company for payment of compensation to any such advisors.

Table of Contents

[GRAPHIC APPEARS HERE]

PROXY FOR THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, to be held on September 14, 2004, and the related Proxy Statement and Korn/Ferry International's Annual Report on Form 10-K and hereby appoints Paul C. Reilly and Gary D. Burnison, and each of them the attorney(s), agent(s) and proxy(ies) of the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to vote all stock of Korn/Ferry International which the undersigned is entitled to vote, for the matters indicated on the reverse side of this proxy card in the manner designated on the reverse side, or if not indicated by the undersigned in their discretion, and to vote in their discretion with respect to such other matters (including matters incident to the conduct of the meeting) as may properly come before the meeting.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT

STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE PROPOSALS.

Address Change/Comments (Mark the corresponding box on the reverse side)

é FOLD AND DETACH HERE é

Table of Contents

This Proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the stockholder. If no direction is given, this Proxy will be voted FOR the election of all nominees for election as directors, FOR the amendment of the Performance Award Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock, FOR the amendment of the Performance Award Plan to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock and FOR the ratification of independent auditors.

Please Mark Here for Address Change or Comments SEE REVERSE SIDE ..

1. To elect as Class 2007 Directors:

01 James E. Barlett, 02 Sakie T. Fukushima,
03 David L. Lowe and 04 Edward D. Miller

FOR all nominees listed (except as marked to the contrary)

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for all nominees listed at left

INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for an individual nominee, write the nominee's name in the space provided:

..

..

2. To approve an amendment to the Performance Award Plan to increase the number of shares of common stock that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan.

FOR **AGAINST** **ABSTAIN**
..

3. To approve an amendment to the Performance Award Plan to eliminate the limitation on the number of shares of restricted stock that may be issued under the Plan.

FOR **AGAINST** **ABSTAIN**
..

4. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent auditors for fiscal 2005.

FOR **AGAINST** **ABSTAIN**
..

5. To act upon any other matters that may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

IMPORTANT PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH REQUIRES NO POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Signature _____ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

NOTE: (Please sign EXACTLY as name appears on this card. Joint owners should each sign. Attorney-in-fact, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians or corporation officers should give FULL title. This proxy shall be valid and may be voted regardless of the form of signature however.)

é FOLD AND DETACH HERE é