

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**6 May 2010**

### **THE PAVILION TO CLOSE**

The Students' Union will be closing its licensed venue, The Pavilion at the end of this semester. After almost 30 years of entertaining Salford students, The Pavilion will finally close its doors at the end of May.

While it had once made a substantial financial contribution to the organisation, the income generated by The Pavilion that can be reinvested in the Union has steadily fallen from £114,000 in 2008 to just £20,000 this year. A loss of £3000 was forecast for 2011. If allowed to continue unchecked, the losses would have eventually threatened the financial stability of the Students' Union as an organisation. In addition, the building has exceeded its life span and maintaining it to the required legislative standards would have involved significant expenditure. The Union felt that the losses reflected the decline in student demand for entertainments and a late night venue and that the large funds necessary to maintain it could better meet student needs elsewhere.

Changing student demographics, financial pressures and a competitive job market mean that late night licensed venues and entertainments are no longer the priority they once were for students across the UK. At Salford, an increasing number of our students live locally and commute into University, a fifth are distance learners or studying part time and over half are mature students. The Union remains committed to providing social space at Bar and Café Yours, and an outstanding retail offer across its three campus shops.

This time last year, the University promised not to close The Pavilion until a replacement venue was available on campus. Since those discussions took place, substantial cuts in higher education funding have meant that the University has had to reconsider its investment options. In the meantime, the Union has taken this action to avoid substantial financial problems for the organisation in the future.

To replace the service offered by The Pavilion, the Union will be developing an exciting programme of off-campus events including Welcome and Christmas Balls, and partnerships with city centre nightclubs to ensure we continue to provide great value nights out for Salford students. On campus, Bar Yours is committed to the expansion of its evening events to include a wide range of activities for students.

The Union's decision will mean it has more time and resources to allocate to the crucial areas that matter most to our members: ensuring an excellent academic experience and enhanced employability upon graduation. It will use its pioneering Sabbatical Officer structure to ensure that the views and opinions of students are accurately represented to the University, and that the changes students want to see in their academic experience are delivered. It will continue to expand its student activities offer to provide wide ranging opportunities for personal development, helping Salford graduates stand out from the crowd in a competitive job market. There will be increased opportunities to run and participate in sports clubs and societies and to take part in trips and activities through the Give It A Go programme.

USSU President Matt Webber said:

'I know many students will be sad to see The Pav close, it's been a big part of student life here at Salford for decades. However, it is clear that the Union had reached a point where it could no longer continue to operate this as a venue, without it threatening the long term financial future of the organisation and the essential services we provide for students.

We remain committed to providing students with opportunities to meet others and make friends, but in new and innovative ways that fully meet their needs.'

University of Salford Vice-Chancellor, Martin Hall commented:

'This is a sensible, businesslike decision. The University is committed to working with the USSU to provide the best possible student experience. As we are the university closest to the heart of Manchester, this includes taking advantage of everything that a great city like ours has to offer'.

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