

F. University 461

Chapter 461: I Can, But You Can't!

"Of course there's no problem, an Education Innovation Exchange Conference is meant for exchanges between various universities."

Director Xiao Wenxing nodded his head, indicating that there was no issue.

So Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing entered the grand auditorium together, followed by Ding Yue's secretary Wen Ruohan, the robot assistant Big White, as well as the secretary of Director Xiao Wenxing and a few other people.

When Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing entered, many of the principals in the auditorium couldn't help but glance in Ding Yue's direction.

After all, Ding Yue was followed by Big White!

Although the robot Big White was very popular among many young people, these university principals had also heard of it.

After all, Big White, the health care robot, had already started being supplied to hospitals nationwide. Some major hospitals in Yancheng have received a batch of health care robots Big White manufactured by Feiyue Group, which Principal Ding of Mist City Arts and Science University is associated with.

"Principal Zhao, isn't that Principal Ding from Mist City Arts and Science University who is collaborating with your Physics College? He's rather young."

After looking at Ding Yue, Principal Wang of Jiangnan University remarked with a sigh as he stood next to Zhao Siming.

"What's that saying? The older wave gets pushed out by the new wave." Zhao Siming responded with a nod and a smile.

At this point, another principal from Guangcheng Technology University, Principal Liu, shook his head: "It's just a private education enterprise. A private university operated in his style can't cause any significant waves."

"Principal Liu, you can't put it like that. We all have seen the achievements of Mist City Arts and Science University, haven't we?"

"A few minor achievements are not worth mentioning." Principal Liu of Guangcheng Technology University didn't think highly of Mist City Arts and Science University: "The only impressive thing is probably their technology of the third generation semiconductor material, gallium nitride."

Principal Zhao Siming was unwilling to hear Principal Liu talk this way. Although he was quite advanced in years, why was his mindset so narrow?

Having a private university such as this quickly growing with limitless future prospects was a good thing for private education in Xia Country, wasn't it?

However, Principal Zhao Siming didn't criticize Principal Liu out of respect for his institution's relationship with Mist City Arts and Science University. He just felt a little uncomfortable inside.

In Zhao Siming's view, a large part of the reason why higher education in Xia Country struggled to innovate was the narrow-mindedness of these old, stubborn principals.

Zhao Siming was different from them. Otherwise, he wouldn't have agreed to establish a partnership between the Physics College of his own Jiangnan University of Science and Technology and the then relatively unknown Physics Department of Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Forget it, Principal Liu, a private university that made a little headway by luck, who knows when it might fail just like Dongcheng Ocean University did? Remember them?"

A university principal seated behind Principal Liu suddenly said.

Dongcheng Ocean University was once a very well-known private comprehensive university in Xia Country. It was built by a group of businessmen who had ventured into business, and there was a time when it was glorious. However, by the year 2021, Dongcheng Ocean University had already fallen into disrepair and become a university that hardly anyone mentioned.

"Exactly."

Principal Liu nodded his head.

In Principal Liu's view, as the other principal had just said, the future of Mist City Arts and Science University was probably bound to follow the same fate as Dongcheng Ocean University.

As for these rigid-minded principals like Principal Liu, Zhao Siming really didn't want to say anything.

After Ding Yue and Director Xiao Wenxing walked into the grand hall, according to the prearranged seating, Director Xiao Wenxing sat in the front row.

As Ding Yue was the head of a private university, his seat was somewhat further back.

So Ding Yue walked towards the back of the auditorium, followed by Big White who was cautiously stepping one foot at a time, walking in such a dazed and cute manner that it attracted many gazes from within the auditorium.

"Hello, you're Principal Ding, right? You're really young!"

When Ding Yue arrived at his row, a middle-aged man in his forties who was seated by the aisle greeted him.

"Hello."

Ding Yue responded with a smile and nodded.

"I'm Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University." The middle-aged man briefly introduced himself to Ding Yue.

"So it's Principal Xu, nice to meet you."

Ding Yue extended his hand warmly and exchanged a handshake with Xu Dongcheng.

Ding Yue had heard about Xu Dongcheng before because, like him, he was also a principal of a private university.

As one of the more well-known private universities in Xia Country, the presence of Westlight University at the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference wasn't surprising to Ding Yue.

After all, compared to Mist City Arts and Science University, Westlight University's resources were considerably more substantial, and it was also recognized as one of the key private universities by Xia Country.

One of the future stage goals for Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University, was to become a nationally recognized key private university like Westlight University.

"Principal Ding, you've shown outstanding competence in running private education. In just over a year, Mist City Arts and Science University has made quite a name for itself."

Since Xu Dongcheng was in the same position as Ding Yue as the head of a private university, he wouldn't look down on Mist City Arts and Science University like those old stubborn principals did.

Chapter 462: I Can, But You Can't!

Instead, Xu Dongcheng greatly appreciated Ding Yue's capabilities in the field of private education!

"Thank you, Principal Xu. Your Westlight University is actually the role model for us private universities," Ding Yue modestly said to Xu Dongcheng.

Under normal circumstances, mutual flattery is a common approach at a conference such as the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference, isn't it?

Upon meeting Ding Yue, Principal Xu Dongcheng praised him. Of course, Ding Yue, seeing the situation, reciprocated the praise.

Thus, the two principals got to know each other amidst laughter.

"Principal Ding, your school's attempts at introducing new majors are quite refreshing. Could you tell me about the current situation and effects of your newly instituted majors?"

Seeing Ding Yue sitting next to him, Xu Dongcheng took the opportunity before the conference officially started to strike up a conversation with him.

In fact, Xu Dongcheng wanted to introduce new majors into his own Westlight University, just like Mist City Arts and Science University.

But he wasn't sure if it would work. What if, after investing a considerable amount of funds into a new major, the enrollment effects were underwhelming?

Seeing Xu Dongcheng enquiring about new majors, Ding Yue guessed that Principal Xu might be hoping to gain some insights from him.

But honestly, Ding Yue would struggle to share any experience, because at Mist City Arts and Science University, none of their newly established departments or majors seemed to have achieved any particularly splendid performances, right?

There were a small number of people who achieved impressive results, such as the members of the FY team from the E-sports Game College, and Sun Chengkang from the National Arts specialty of the Institute of Traditional Chinese Studies.

Sun Chengkang recently defeated a Thai Boxing expert, reaffirming the legitimacy of Xia Country's National Arts under the suppression of Thai Boxing, and therefore his popularity was soaring.

It seemed likely that Principal Xu Dongcheng was interested in the National Arts Major, right?

"Principal Xu, our school is also in the experimental stage for establishing new majors, but at present, it seems relatively stable, mainly because the teaching strength should be sufficient."

Ding Yue briefly explained to Principal Xu Dongcheng.

"You've got very interesting majors like National Arts and E-sports at your school. I believe these will definitely become popular new university majors in the future. Our Westlight University, after several meetings of the board of directors, also plans to introduce new majors."

Xu Dongcheng was quite straightforward; he spoke his mind when chatting with Ding Yue.

Seeing that Principal Xu was a decent person, Ding Yue nodded and said, "Indeed, it's worth a try. But you need to consider one thing, Principal Xu. How will your university ensure the job placement of these new major students after graduation?"

Ding Yue couldn't help but pose a "difficult to solve" problem to Xu Dongcheng.

Upon hearing this, Xu Dongcheng instantly paused.

Right!

This issue is indeed critical and should be carefully considered.

If a school blindly adds emerging majors, and if these majors don't have promising job prospects, then the enrollment outcomes would obviously be lackluster, leading to a vicious circle.

So, Ding Yue's comments on the employment issue for new majors like E-sports and National Arts made Xu Dongcheng reconsider.

At present, Westlight University was doing well in traditional majors, but enrollment in these majors is quite challenging for private universities, with fewer students enrolling every year. Therefore, Xu Dongcheng wanted to learn about the situation of emerging majors from Ding Yue.

If the prospects looked good, Westlight University might also consider establishing relevant emerging majors.

"So, Principal Xu, different schools have different circumstances. Perhaps these new majors like E-sports and National Arts are suitable for our Mist City Arts and Science University, but they might not be suitable for your Westlight University, because your university is more oriented towards traditional majors."

Ding Yue said to Principal Xu Dongcheng earnestly.

The gist of what he said was — I can do it, but you can't!

Indeed.

Some of the new majors established at Mist City Arts and Science University can only be managed by Ding Yue. With his "Famous School System," Ding Yue can surpass boundaries, cultivate excellent students from new majors, and then recruit them into his own company, Feiyue Group, for related industry development.

This creates a series of positive cycles.

Just because Ding Yue has the ability, doesn't mean that Xu Dongcheng has it too. Westlight University, despite being a deeply established private institution, might decline within a few years if they unpreparedly establish new emerging majors like E-sports or National Arts.

Upon hearing Ding Yue's remarks, Xu Dongcheng felt that this young Principal Ding seemed to have a broad perspective.

"So, Principal Ding, how does your school ensure that students from these new majors can find good jobs after graduation?"

Xu Dongcheng couldn't help but ask out of curiosity.

Since you just mentioned that employment is an issue, why can your Mist City Arts and Science University do it? Do you have job placement channels or career pathways that you're unwilling to share?

"Because I can provide them with jobs that match their majors!"

Ding Yue confidently responded.

"You can provide? There are a considerable number of students, aren't there?" After hearing this, Xu Dongcheng couldn't help but express his disbelief.

"Yes. The number of students in the new majors is indeed quite large. However, our Mist City Arts and Science University adheres to a policy of broad admission and strict graduation. Any student who can successfully graduate from our school will be excellent in their major!"

Chapter 463: I Can, But You Can't!

Ding Yue could tell Principal Xu Dongcheng about this, because even if Xu Dongcheng's Westlight University wanted to learn, they wouldn't be able to.

"Excellent students, my Feiyue Group will offer good job positions with decent salary, so employment will no longer be a problem,"

Ding Yue continued.

"Then, Principal Ding, what about students with average academic performance?" Xu Dongcheng asked curiously.

"There are none."

Ding Yue shook his head.

"What do you mean there are none?" Xu Dongcheng frowned.

"There are no students with average academic performance. Didn't I say that? Any student who can graduate from our Mist City Arts and Science University will have excellent academic performance!"

A confident and calmed smile appeared on Ding Yue's face without his realization.

How is this possible!

Xu Dongcheng wondered whether this young principal, Ding Yue, was boasting?

However, Xu Dongcheng only thought about it and didn't say it out loud. After all, it would be quite awkward if he did, wouldn't it?

However, in reality, Ding Yue wasn't boasting!

Since the beginning of the last year, he has established one of Mist City Arts and Science University's policies, "Easy to Enter, Hard to Graduate".

This means that when recruiting, the university could flexibly admit many students, even those who have failed the College Entrance Exam.

"Hard to Graduate" means strictly controlling the graduation threshold. Only students with excellent grades who have achieved their target credits can graduate successfully.

Therefore, the final exams of the Mist City Arts and Science University have always been rigorous.

If a student can't reach the target credit and can't graduate, then, unfortunately, they need to pay to continue studying and accumulating credits.

If they still can't accumulate enough credits to graduate after many years, then... Ding Yue really hadn't thought about having students like that.

Unless they're cursed?

Otherwise, how could anyone not manage to graduate under the buff of the Academic Overlord Totem at Mist City Arts and Science University?

With the "Easy to Enter, Hard to Graduate" policy, and the academic buff that Ding Yue gives to students, the graduates of Mist City Arts and Science University, in terms of their professional knowledge and ability, are certainly stronger than ordinary undergraduates.

Whether they can compare with key universities or even Double First Class universities depends on the individuals.

Some can, for example, Tong Yihang and Liu Tiefei from the Mechanical Engineering Department, Chen Jun from the Computer Science Department, and Lin Zhirou from the Art Department. They are not inferior to the students from Qinghua, Yancheng University, and Yancheng Art Academy.

Today is the first time Xu Dongcheng met this young private university principal. His impression of Ding Yue is that he's very confident.

This Principal Ding seems to be brimming with an unexplained self-assuredness.

According to his confidence, wouldn't his Mist City Arts and Science University become the best university in the country, no, the best in the world in the next ten or even several decades?

"Principal Ding, this robot next to you is the health care robot, Big White, developed by your university, correct?"

Xu Dongcheng has noticed Big White, who has been following Ding Yue from the start.

Who doesn't know about Big White?

Xu Dongcheng also knows that it is a health care robot developed and manufactured by Mist City Arts and Science University.

"Yes, it was initially a medical health robot, but now Big White is more focused on artificial intelligence",

Ding Yue nodded and answered.

"Ar....Artificial Intelligence?" Xu Dongcheng looked surprised as he glanced at Big White who sat next to Ding Yue.

Is this really true?

Even artificial intelligence?

"To be precise, it only leans towards artificial intelligence because we human beings haven't really mastered mature artificial intelligence technology", Ding Yue laughed and said.

"I see... Principal Ding, does your university have a major in artificial intelligence?"

Xu Dongcheng asked curiously.

"No, we don't. This Big White being more AI-focused was actually a collaborative research outcome of our Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science Department. The smart program was written by the Computer Science Department,"

Ding Yue shook his head and replied.

Mist City Arts and Science University indeed doesn't have a specialist field in "AI".

This AI-focused Big White is merely an idea from Ding Yue for Xu Bin to develop an AI-like software after obtaining the "Gallium Nitride Chip".

Unexpectedly, Xu Bin managed to develop a "pseudo-human-like intelligent program". This led to the creation of Big White, the AI-leaning robot.

Unaware, some thought that Big White, who always follows Ding Yue, was a medical health care robot.

If Ding Yue hadn't remembered wrong, Yancheng University had established an undergraduate major called "Intelligence Science and Technologies" in 2003. This was the beginning of their well-established talent development system in artificial intelligence.

Additionally, Ha City Industrial University has also achieved significant scientific research outcomes in the AI field since 2000.

Ha City Industrial University's achievement in the AI field is praiseworthy. They have established productive collaborations in scientific research, and joint talent trainings with renowned domestic and foreign companies such as IBM, AISOFT, QIANDU, AFOREIGN, PENGUIN, and XIAOFEI Technology.

In reality, Ding Yue has a considerable understanding of the current stage of artificial intelligence; it's more like a facade of AI technology.

Chapter 464: I Can, But You Can't!

After all, realizing the true potential of AI isn't easy.

Even for Ding Yue to genuinely exchange [AI technology] in the system mall, Mist City Arts and Science University must be upgraded to a very high level.

The present artificial intelligence, reluctantly referred to by Ding Yue as "pseudo-artificial intelligence", his robot Big White, is no exception.

However.

Even if it's "pseudo-artificial intelligence", after development to maturity, it can benefit humankind, offering unmatched convenience in day-to-day life.

As Ding Yue was chatting about Big White with Principal Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University, the hall gradually quieted down.

So Ding Yue and Xu Dongcheng stopped chatting.

A man in his fifties, who was clearly a leader, took to the stage and started a speech after not even half a minute.

Ding Yue originally thought this education official's speech would be the standard bearable yet non-compelling official talk.

But, after seriously listening to a few lines, Ding Yue realized the speech wasn't bad.

The main point was that the country's higher education, Xia Country, needs to be innovative and reformed, both public and private universities should cultivate excellent college students through excellent teaching.

Moreover, he announced the official higher education talent development plan, among other things.

In summary, the Xia Country wants to improve the efficiency of talent education in universities and therefore organized this National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference.

Ding Yue started believing the "exchange conference" was the focus, but now listening to this educational official's speech, he realized that the "educational innovation" was the core!

Although Ding Yue was quite interested in the speech by the person on the podium, official talk does get boring after a while.

As a young person, Ding Yue's tolerance and experience at such conferences definitely fall short when compared to the fifty and sixty-year-old principals sitting in front of him.

Therefore, he could not help but yawn, albeit he covered it with his hand as he should not make it too obvious.

As for the words of the educational official on the stage, Ding Yue could choose not to listen as he had his robot Big White, which would record everything said by the speaker.

Even Big White's eyes could record the video in its original imaging format.

So, Ding Yue had no need to worry.

"Principal Ding, isn't some of what Deputy Director Qiu said particularly advantageous for our private higher education institutions?"

Principal Xu Dongcheng suddenly turned his head, excitedly asking Ding Yue.

"Yes, yes, that's what I was thinking, too."

"In other words, as long as our private universities can cultivate talents in the future, the support from the state for us will be strengthened!"

Principal Xu Dongcheng continued excitedly.

"Hmm, very good indeed!" Ding Yue, unaware of what Deputy Director Qiu was talking about, responded perfunctorily to Principal Xu Dongcheng's words.

But Principal Xu, who seemed to completely overlook this, remained exhilaratingly excited.

"Principal Xu, did you just say that the state will strongly support our private universities in the future?"

Ding Yue, grasping the meaning of Principal Xu Dongcheng's words, quickly asked with interest.

Principal Xu seemed to mention that the speaker on the stage had implied that the state will strongly support private universities in the future?

If this is the case, Mist City Arts and Science University may receive state support in the course of its development in the next few years.

As a result, Mist City Arts and Science University may make breakthroughs in some advanced "black technology" research fields at a faster pace.

"Ah?"

Xu Dongcheng was taken aback.

Both men looked at each other, their conversation seeming to be on different wavelengths.

At that moment, the Deputy Director Qiu from the educational official department on the stage suddenly mentioned the name of a school.

Instantly, Ding Yue stiffened!

Chapter 465: Qualification for research program at Yancheng University

Why did the speaker on stage suddenly mention his Mist City Arts and Science University?

Ding Yue was somewhat nervous all of a sudden.

After all, this conference gathered presidents of universities nationwide, organized by education officials; all attendees were influential figures in the field.

His Mist City Arts and Science University, was unexpectedly mentioned?

Deputy director Qiu on stage said earnestly: "Private universities are also an indispensable part of our country's educational force. How to standardize the development of private university education is a problem we need to be aware of in innovative and reform-oriented higher education."

Everyone in the grand hall was seriously listening to Deputy director Qiu's speech.

Even Ding Yue, who initially thought it was going to be rather dry, started listening attentively. After all, he was talking about his Mist City Arts and Science University.

"The number of private universities has been decreasing in recent years, but I have to mention a new private university, that is Mist City Arts and Science University. According to our official education data assessment, the satisfaction rate of its students is as high as 98%, which is a very high rate. This indicates that the educational relationship between the school and the students is handled quite well."

Deputy director Qiu held up Ding Yue's Mist City Arts and Science University as an example of private universities: "Apart from that, in terms of academic achievements, Mist City Arts and Science University had made some noteworthy achievements in a short time. Why is that so? I understand it as the bold attempts of a serious private institution in education innovation!"

From Deputy director Qiu's remarks, Ding Yue could tell he was praising his Mist City Arts and Science University.

Among the university presidents sitting in the front, many from Double First Class Universities also nodded in agreement.

For a moment, Ding Yue felt quite pleased, as if he was floating on cloud nine. But he knew he must not let it get to his head.

Although he was praised by Deputy director Qiu of the education department, Ding Yue knew very well that if his Mist City Arts and Science University was to become domestically top ranking, there was still a long way to go.

"Principal Ding, Deputy director Qiu has taken your Mist City Arts and Science University as a role model of private universities!"

Principal Xu Dongcheng of Westlight University, sitting next to him, said with a hint of envy.

"I'm also a bit surprised that Deputy director Qiu has chosen our university as an example."

Ding Yue modestly bowed and scratched his head, seeming slightly embarrassed.

Xu Dongcheng could tell that the young Principal Ding was attending a national university exchange conference for the first time and that his occasional awkwardness was natural.

Actually, some of the more extroverted university presidents were very interested in Mist City Arts and Science University mentioned by Deputy Director Qiu and its principal, Ding Yue.

In particular, Principal Zhu of Yancheng University was very interested in Ding Yue personally because Ding Yue studied physics.

Yancheng University's physics department, without a doubt, was one of the best in Xia Country.

Not only Principal Zhu of Yancheng University, but also Principal Sun of Qinghua University was interested in Ding Yue.

However, Principal Sun of Qinghua University was not interested in the fact that Ding Yue was a physics prodigy but was more interested in the mechanical department of the Mist City Arts and Science University.

The mechanical department of Qinghua University was without a doubt the best in the country, and the one at Mist City Arts and Science University seemed to have great potential.

Both of these well-known University Principals had some thoughts about Mist City Arts and Science University.

However, Ding Yue at this moment, obviously could not imagine that he would become the focus of these two influential principals.

Then Deputy director Qiu on stage continued to talk about many issues related to innovative reform in higher education, and then invited Principal Sun of Qinghua University to speak.

After the speech by Principal Sun of Qinghua University, it was Principal Zhu of Yancheng University, followed by Principal He of Fudan University.

After the speeches from these top university presidents, the conference was drawing to a close.

Ding Yue thought he would be invited to say a few words.

It seems he overthought it.

That was true.

As an ordinary private university president, he didn't really have the qualifications to speak at the stage. It was already a great honor to be mentioned by Deputy director Qiu.

However, Ding Yue believed that one day he would be able to stand on that stage and address the presidents of the top universities nationwide!

The last speaker of this meeting turned out to be Director Xiao Wenxing of the Mist City Education Department.

However, Director Xiao Wenxing's speech was too bureaucratic. Ding Yue wasn't really interested.

Eventually, at around 11:40 in the morning, the University Education Innovation Exchange Conference finally came to an end.

If Ding Yue were to guess, the next step should be lunch.

He had had a good breakfast earlier, and now he was a bit hungry. He would visit the cafeteria at Mist City University to see if it was better than the cafeteria at his own Mist City Arts and Science University.

However, Ding Yue had a hunch that his own Mist City Arts and Science University would win.

The bosom-talk meeting of university presidents in the afternoon was extremely important to Ding Yue.

Because at that meeting, Ding Yue prepared to talk about the key development areas of his Mist City Arts and Science University, and looked for partner universities. This bosom-talk meeting would be a great opportunity.

At that time, Ding Yue could approach some university presidents one by one to discuss this matter. Hopefully, he could establish a relationship similar to the existing one between his Mist City Arts and Science University and Jiangnan University of Science and Technology.

Chapter 466: Qualification for Research Assurance at Yancheng University

In this way, the development of Mist City Arts and Science University in the coming years, is similar to a clock getting a new spring; it can speed up now.

After Director Xiao Wenxing finished speaking, the morning conference officially came to an end.

"Principal Ding."

Just as Ding Yue was preparing to leave the auditorium with his secretary, Wen Ruohan, and the robot, Big White, the voice of Principal Xu Dongcheng from Westlight University came from behind.

"Hmm? Principal Xu, what's the matter?" Ding Yue turned around and asked Xu Dongcheng.

"Principal Ding, shall we have lunch together?" Xu Dongcheng asked very enthusiastically.

Ding Yue thought it was some kind of issue, but turns out he was just inviting him to have lunch together. He didn't see a problem with that.

"Sure." Ding Yue nodded in agreement.

After all, he didn't know many people at this National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference, so he figured he might as well have lunch with Principal Xu Dongcheng, whom he had just met.

Despite looking not like those university presidents in their fifties or sixties, Xu Dongcheng seemed to have some vitality.

"Let's go, then. After lunch, we'll have some time for a nap at the hotel, and then there's a university presidents' discussion meeting in the afternoon. This discussion meeting is actually quite important..."

Xu Dongcheng walked over, joining Ding Yue and they headed out of the auditorium, meanwhile, he discussed a few important components of the day's conference with Ding Yue, a first-time junior president.

In fact, Ding Yue had already done his homework regarding these components.

Just as Xu Dongcheng said, the university presidents' discussion meeting provides a great opportunity for discussing cooperation between universities.

Due to the fact that Ding Yue and Xu Dongcheng were seated towards the back, the principals of these Double First Class Universities in front of them left the auditorium first.

Ding Yue and Xu Dongcheng then made their way towards the exit on the left of the auditorium.

At the left exit, Ding Yue saw several university presidents gathered there seeming to be engaged in some conversation. Out of curiosity, Ding Yue took a look and happened to make eye contact with Principal Zhu from Yancheng University.

"Xiao Ding."

Suddenly, Principal Zhu of Yancheng University actually called out to Ding Yue.

Given Principal Zhu's age, it wasn't inappropriate for him to address Ding Yue as "Xiao Ding."

After all, Principal Zhu is the president of Yancheng University, a vice-department level official, whose social status is far higher than Ding Yue's.

"Ah, I'm here."

Ding Yue responded instinctively.

At this point, Principal Zhu walked over to Ding Yue with a warm smile on his face.

"You're doing well for yourself. Just now, I was chatting with Old Pan and the others about you. Deputy director Qiu thinks very highly of Mist City Arts and Science University. Oh, and the research achievement in the field of third-generation semiconductor materials by Mist City Arts and Science University and Jiangnan University of Science and Technology, indeed made a positive contribution to the development of China's semiconductor technology."

As soon as Zhu from Yancheng University came over, he praised Ding Yue.

This...

Ding Yue was rather bashful about this.

"Thank you, Principal Zhu. Actually, Mist City Arts and Science University is still a nascent university that needs a lot of time to gradually improve," said Ding Yue very humbly.

At the present stage, his status, the prestige of the school, or its social standing, can't be compared with Yancheng University.

Thus, Ding Yue can't confer with Principal Zhu of Yancheng University as an equal.

"This is Big White, correct?" Principal Zhu asked as he glanced at the robot Big White behind Ding Yue.

"Yes." Ding Yue nodded in reply.

It seemed that all the university presidents who spoke with him would ask about the robot Big White behind him.

It appears that bringing Big White with him to show off a bit was quite effective.

At least it drew the attention of the university presidents.

"Your school's medical health robot is a very good product. Several hospitals in Yancheng have started using it," Principal Zhu started a casual conversation with Ding Yue.

Ding Yue was puzzled.

Could it be that he stopped me just to have some casual conversation?

"It's our original intention to make a little contribution to the medical industry in our country by developing the medical health robot, Big White," said Ding Yue, still showing humility.

Then, Ding Yue called out to Big White: "Big White, greet Principal Zhu."

Big White looked up at Principal Zhu of Yancheng University, stepped forward, extended his hand to shake hands with Principal Zhu, and said, "Hello, Principal Zhu, I am Principal Ding's robot assistant, Big White. Nice to meet you."

Big White now has his own "pseudo-human logic thinking" greeting method, which is actually learned through training.

That is to say, before he learns any other greetings, Big White will use the same way of greeting, "Hello XXX, I am XXX, nice to meet you" when he meets anyone.

"Big White is quite interesting, isn't it? I heard from Director Xiao that it's an AI robot?"

Principal Zhu asked with curiosity.

Given that Principal Zhu isn't a specialist in robotics or the AI technology that became popular after 2000, his curiosity and interest in AI robotics is quite normal.

Chapter 467: Qualification for recommended Postgraduate Program at Yancheng University

After all, Big White was really standing in front of him, greeting him, looking like the intelligent robot people have talked about.

"Not really, Big White is just using an intelligent program."

"By the way Principal Ding, if I am not wrong, you studied physics for your undergraduate degree in this university, right? You later developed nitride gallium semiconductor material technology with some professors from Jiangnan University of Science and Technology."

Principal Zhu suddenly switched the topic.

"Uh, yes." Ding Yue was taken aback by Principal Zhu's abrupt change of topic and nodded in reply.

"Principal Ding, the physics major at our Yancheng University is also top-ranked in the country. If you're considering graduate studies, are you interested in considering our Yancheng University?"

Principal Zhu asked with expectation.

Principal Zhu would not miss such a genius physics graduate. Most importantly, he is the principal of Mist City Arts and Science University, which makes him unique, prompting Principal Zhu to personally invite Ding Yue.

"Ah... um... Principal Zhu, the physics major at Yancheng University is indeed the best in the country."

Ding Yue couldn't deny that.

After all, the ranking of the physics major at Yancheng University as a primary discipline often tops the official education assessment list.

The physics programs at Qinghua University, Haicheng University of Transportation, and Xia Country University of Science and Technology are also top-tier.

Principal Zhu's idea is to invite me to study for a master's degree at Yancheng University?

Initially, Ding Yue planned to undertake graduate studies in the second half of the year, intending to study physics at another university.

At that time, Mist City Arts and Science University hadn't obtained the Master's Degree Authorization Point for its physics program.

But now, the university does have a Master's Degree Authorization Point for physics, meaning that Ding Yue could complete his graduate studies at his own university and earn a master's degree.

But...

The physics program at Mist City Arts and Science University and that at Yancheng University are as different as a small country town and a big international city like Haicheng.

Principal Zhu added, "Principal Ding, your accomplishments in physics must be extraordinary. Therefore, our university offers you a guaranteed position for graduate study. How about considering studying physics at our Yancheng University?"

Hiss!

A guaranteed position!

When Ding Yue heard this, he was shocked!

WTF, Principal Zhu is so sincere? He's offering me a guaranteed position to study for a master's degree at Yancheng University?

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue was startled and quickly calculated in his mind.

Mist City Arts and Science University could hardly rival Yancheng University in the coming decade.

However, he does need a good academic credential to better lead Mist City Arts and Science University.

Looking around at the principals attending the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference, aren't all of them highly educated from famous universities?

Take Principal Zhu for example, he is a Ph.D. graduate from Yancheng University!

Obviously, a master's degree from Yancheng University carries more weight than a master's degree from Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ding Yue was very tempted.

But the only inconvenience for Ding Yue is that if he goes to Yancheng University for graduate studies, he may become "tied" to Yancheng University. Then, he will have less energy to focus on the development of Mist City Arts and Science University.

This is why Ding Yue initially preferred to stay and study for his master's degree in physics in his own university rather than going to other universities.

With Ding Yue's abilities in physics, it wouldn't be difficult for him to get admitted to Yancheng University.

But getting admitted after an examination and being invited by Principal Zhu personally are two entirely different things!

If he rejects Principal Zhu's invitation, can Ding Yue still mix in this circle?

"Alright, fine!"

Ding Yue immediately stopped hesitating and agreed to Principal Zhu's proposal.

"That's great, Principal Ding. I believe you will have greater development space in our physics program at Yancheng University!"

Principal Zhu extended his hand, ready to shake hands with Ding Yue.

"Well, Principal Zhu, my university, Mist City Arts and Science University, has just started out and I'm needed in many areas. Regarding the matter of studying at Yancheng University, could I..."

Although Ding Yue agreed readily, he definitely had some conditions to offer.

Studying at Yancheng University and conducting physics research is fine, but Ding Yue can't stay there all the time.

After all, he still holds the position as the principal of Mist City Arts and Science University!

The school can't be without him!

"Oh, oh, I understand your concerns, Xiao Ding." Seeing that Ding Yue seemed to be in a dilemma, Principal Zhu understood it at once: "Let's do it this way, Xiao Ding. You can arrange your time freely. As long as you can complete your postgraduate studies in our university."

Principal Zhu didn't mean to "tie" Ding Yue to Yan City University, after all, he was aware that in addition to being a talented physics student, Ding Yue was also the helmsman of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Deputy Director Qiu just said on the stage, Mist City Arts and Science has great development potential in the future, and this is inseparable from the guidance of the young and promising helmsman, Ding Yue.

Chapter 468: Qualification for Research Program at Yancheng University

So clearly, Principal Zhu wouldn't hinder the development of Mist City Arts and Science University under Ding Yue's leadership.

"That would be fantastic."

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue was delighted.

Because this meant Ding Yue could get the advanced degree he wanted by studying for a master's in Physics at Yancheng University and even potentially pursuing a doctoral degree later on.

And under his principle of "time management", he could continue to spend most of his time at his own Mist City Arts and Science University during his postgraduate and doctoral pursuits, leading it towards a brighter future.

Perfect!

Ding Yue was more than happy to accept Principal Zhu's offer of guaranteed admission to Yancheng University.

"Haha, I wish Principal Ding great academic success at our Yancheng University!" Principal Zhu joined him in laughter, saying to Ding Yue.

He purposefully used the word "academia".

As far as Principal Zhu was concerned, a physics genius like Ding Yue was undoubtedly cut out for "academia", so using "academia" instead of "academic work" better reflected Ding Yue's capabilities.

"Thank you Principal Zhu, I'm truly grateful. I assure you, I won't let your faith in me go to waste during my postgraduate studies at Yancheng University!"

Ding Yue said, his eyes determined.

This proposition equated to Principal Zhu literally handing him a master's degree in physics from Yancheng University!

So, Ding Yue, not being an ingrate, planned to achieve something during his time at Yancheng University as a token of his gratitude to Principal Zhu. Meanwhile, he could wholly connect his achievements to his own Physics Department at Mist City Arts and Science University.

A win-win situation!

But for now, Ding Yue wasn't sure what significant physics research he could undertake during his postgraduate studies at Yancheng University.

Having completed the gallium nitride semiconductor materials technology, Ding Yue didn't plan to invest much energy in semiconductor materials.

Firstly, there was no unlocking of more advanced technology for now.

Secondly, Ding Yue wanted to try other areas of physics; staying within the confines of the semiconductor materials field seemed like a waste of his learning "buff".

Anyhow, Ding Yue had not started his postgraduate studies yet and still had the chance to choose more specialized physics research fields.

Principal Zhu discussed some additional matters concerning the guaranteed postgraduate admission with Ding Yue, then they both left the auditorium.

With other matters to attend to, Principal Zhu left first.

At this moment, Xu Dongcheng slightly patted Ding Yue's shoulder, his eyes radiating a certain envy, he said, "Principal Ding, being personally invited by Principal Zhu for the guaranteed admission to Yancheng University... You're truly deserving of your reputation!"

Hearing Xu Dongcheng's tone, why did Ding Yue feel like Xu Dongcheng was becoming his number one fan?

"Not at all, it must be that Principal Zhu wants to give me this opportunity," Ding Yue modestly replied.

Xu Dongcheng, envy gleaming in his eyes, replied: "Principal Ding, with your capabilities, you could easily earn a doctoral degree in physics at Yancheng University. Do you know what my educational background is?"

"Oh?"

Ding Yue became particularly curious when Principal Xu Dongcheng asked this question.

"I only graduated from high school in China. Later, I went abroad to attend university but returned to start a business with my father before graduating. We later entered the field of private education and have achieved some success."

Xu Dongcheng replied with a hearty smile.

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue was astounded. Who would have thought that Principal Xu Dongcheng only had a high school education?

From his demeanor and speech, he certainly seemed like a highly educated university principal.

Looking at it this way, the principals of private universities truly couldn't compare to those of public universities in terms of education.

After all, the principals of private universities are business people.

While the principals of public universities, like Principal Zhu, hold national positions, as there are always D-groups in public universities after all.

Chapter 469: University Principals' Forum

After leaving the great hall of Houghton Building, Ding Yue and Xu Dongcheng, the principal of Westlight University, went to the canteen of Mist City University together.

Now Xu Dongcheng has practically become a fanboy of Ding Yue. No, considering Xu Dongcheng's age, he should be more of a fan...bro?

Regardless, Xu Dongcheng admires Ding Yue's abilities and professional knowledge a lot.

So young, not only has he made Mist City Arts and Science University, a newly established private university, thriving, but also personally invited by Principal Zhu of Yancheng University for postgraduate recommendation, how could Xu Dongcheng, who only has a high school diploma and is now in his forties, not feel envious? Not admire?

Xu Dongcheng was originally going to have a meal at the hotel after returning.

But since Ding Yue was going to the canteen of Mist City University to have eggs, Xu Dongcheng followed him.

Ding Yue, with his robot assistant Big White walking around the campus of Mist City University, undoubtedly became the center of attention.

The students of Mist City University, although all talented, many of them are seeing Big White (●—●) for the first time.

Some of the university students who particularly liked Big White had been to Mist City Central Hospital before to see the medical health robot Big White.

Now they actually saw Big White on campus!

On the way to the canteen, many students from Mist City University came up and wanted to take a group photo with Big White.

Seeing these students so enthusiastic, most of whom contributed to the box office of "Super Combat Team" during the National Day holiday, Ding Yue agreed to their group photo with Big White and let Ruohan handle it.

"We and our friends watched 'Super Combat Team' twice, the movie was great, Big White was so cute."

"Principal Ding, this robot Big White from your university, it feels a bit like artificial intelligence, doesn't it?"

"Principal Ding, when will Big White be able to fly like in the movie?"

"Flying is probably not realistic, after all, if it can fly, it would almost become a flying robot or a weapon."

"I also want to take a picture with Big White!"

It must be said that Big White, the robot of Mist City Arts and Science University, has been successfully made into a "popular character" through medical health robots, animated film works, etc.

In the past life on Earth, Big White was just a virtual character in the movie.

And, brought by Ding Yue to this Parallel World, it is no longer a virtual character, but a real robot.

When Big White is really upgraded to an artificial intelligence in the future, it would probably become a super popular partner for humans.

Originally, it only took a few minutes to go to the canteen for lunch.

However, due to many students from Mist City University requesting group photos with Big White, half an hour had passed when they arrived at the canteen.

Fortunately, even after half an hour, it's just after twelve o'clock, although it's not exactly starving, it only means that lunch is a bit late and the noon break will be slightly shorter.

It doesn't matter.

Being able to let these university students who especially like Big White take a group photo, satisfy their small wishes, can also be considered as doing a good deed.

The food in the canteen of Mist City University tastes quite good, but Ding Yue and Ruohan both said that it is a bit worse compared to Mist City Arts and Science University.

However, for Xu Dongcheng, the food in the canteen of Mist City University is already quite delicious.

"Principal Ding, in our Westlight University canteen, I have stressed many times to make the food tasty, but... compared to Mist City University, it is far inferior."

Xu Dongcheng said helplessly, shaking his head.

Some things are not necessarily done as he, the principal, says.

Moreover, the canteen of Westlight University is contracted by his own relatives, and it's not good to be too blunt.

"So, do the students in your school mostly choose takeaway?" Ding Yue chatted with Xu Dongcheng while eating.

As they are both private universities, Ding Yue still hopes that Xu Dongcheng's Westlight University will get better and better.

After all, this can generally enhance the status and image of private universities in the public's mind.

Because, when there are more and more powerful, good and high-quality private universities, the public's perception of private universities as inferior colleges will gradually change. Therefore, the social status and image of private universities will naturally improve, right?

"Yes, the students do prefer takeout." Xu Dongcheng nodded in agreement, replying.

Since takeout is a big trend in current society, Xu Dongcheng is comparatively enlightened and allows students to order takeout at school, unlike some universities that forbid students to order takeout and even prevent the delivery guys from entering the school.

"To be honest, at Mist City Arts and Science University, very few students order takeout." Ding Yue's smile was full of confidence.

"Oh? Principal Ding, did you forbid students from ordering takeout? Wouldn't that cause a lot of discontent among the students? However, at this morning's meeting, I seem to have heard Deputy director Qiu say that the satisfaction rate of students in your school is very high, isn't it?"

Xu Dongcheng suddenly felt puzzled.

If Principal Ding prohibits students from ordering takeout, how did Mist City Arts and Science University achieve such a high satisfaction rate?

Chapter 470: University Principals' Forum

This is a false premise!

Ding Yue shook his head and said, "No, no, no, I didn't ban the students from ordering take-out, but the students wouldn't choose to order in the first place. The variety of food in our university cafeteria is rich, the taste is good, and the price is reasonable. We attract students to dine in the cafeteria with quality."

Speaking of the first and second cafeterias of Mist City Arts and Science University, they are thriving under the management of Zhang Yuping, who is like a mother figure.

Usually, when a university cafeteria first opens, there may be quite a few students dining there.

However, as time goes by, the commitment to serving quality food in the cafeteria may gradually decline, hence losing the students' patronage.

In the long run, it becomes hard for university cafeterias to maintain their past glory, with more and more students opting for take-out instead.

But the cafeteria at Mist City Arts and Science University is different.

Starting from last year, there has been an explosive amount of student traffic every day for over a year.

Ding Yue even plans to build two more cafeterias in the university's expansion plan.

"All the students dine in the cafeteria?" Upon hearing this, Xu Dongcheng found it unbelievable.

Having been on the board of Westlight University for many years, he knew very well that competition from take-out services was gradually undermining the competitiveness of campus cafeterias. So why would Mist City Arts and Science University be any different?

Actually.

One of the reasons that take-out services are not popular at Mist City Arts and Science University is probably the remote location of the university.

Compared with distant take-out stores, students prefer to eat directly in the university cafeteria.

"Yes, most of the students regularly dine in the university cafeterias. Of course, there are also some restaurants on campus."

Ding Yue nodded in answer.

As Ding Yue mentioned, there are not just the first and second cafeterias on the campus of Mist City Arts and Science University.

The university has also provided some storefronts for students in the food and beverage program to set up their own restaurants.

Some businesses are doing quite well, essentially allowing the top students in the food and beverage program to venture into entrepreneurship while still in college.

"Principal Ding, your university now has about 30,000 students, right? If all these students are dining in the university cafeterias, that would be quite a bit of income. And what's more, in just over a year, your university managed to satisfy them to such an extent. You are truly a model to us all!"

Xu Dongcheng said with a hint of envy in his tone.

Though Westlight University is a well-known private university in the country, Xu Dongcheng, as a board member, knows that due to various rigid conditions, Westlight University is on the decline.

He knew he needed a way to stop Westlight University's decline, or it would follow in the footsteps of Dongcheng Ocean University in a couple of decades.

"Principal Ding, can I visit your university for an inspection after the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference?"

Xu Dongcheng suddenly made this request.

Hearing this, Ding Yue immediately smiled and nodded, "Of course, there's no problem. As Deputy Director Qiu said, the purpose of the National College Education Innovation Exchange Conference is to promote communication and mutual learning among universities."

Seeing Xu Dongcheng so enthusiastic, Ding Yue knew that he probably wanted to examine and learn from the "advantages" of Mist City Arts and Science University.

Ding Yue had no reason to refuse, because he also hoped that private universities in Xia Country would get better and better, and together with public universities, make contributions to the education and talent development in Xia Country.

When that happens, why wouldn't Xia Country become even stronger?

Even though Xu Dongcheng won't be able to learn the advantage of "students loving to learn," which Ding Yue achieved with system assistance, he should be able to learn other advantages of Mist City Arts and Science University if he studies carefully.

For example, being good to students in all aspects, providing the best treatment for students within their means, rather than treating students like emotionless leeks ready to be harvested every day!

Even when Ding Yue 'harvests' his students at Mist City Arts and Science University, it's only once a year during tuition payment time. The rest of the time, he treats his students extremely well.

"Great, I'd like to thank Principal Ding then. After today, I will visit your university to learn and examine carefully. This is a sincere exchange because I feel that in recent years Westlight University has been on a decline, not just in education, but also in product acceptance rates."

First, Xu Dongcheng thanked him with a smile then expressed his worries.

"Actually, doing private education is like doing business. When doing business, we value integrity and quality. Therefore, by doing private education, we should be student-oriented because students are the core of a school." Ding Yue casually said.

"Yes, we should indeed put students first!"

Xu Dongcheng seemed thoughtful, feeling that Ding Yue made a lot of sense and was seeing the business aspect of private education very clearly.

Ding Yue and Xu Dongcheng having lunch together gave the feeling of a university principals' forum, except this discussion only involved two private university principals.

But the forum for university principals in the afternoon will bring together principals from the strongest Double First Class Universities in Xia Country.