Christopher Hale  
Candidate for the Rights and Rules Committee

I am excited to run for a position representing the graduate student body on the Rights and Rules committee. For graduate students at Princeton a clear and effective system of rules is especially important as we find ourselves navigating multiple roles, as students, instructors and researchers. In most cases we have close professional relationships with faculty that are integral to our advancement as scholars. We also have responsibility over students, often our own peers. This can put us in difficult positions where we are especially vulnerable to abuse or entanglement in ethically complicated situations.

I am an international student with experience studying at 4 different universities in England and the United States. Here at Princeton I am the GSG representative for my program and have been an instructor with the Prison Teaching Initiative. In addition to my experience within academic communities I also have work experience in the following areas: tax accounting; non-profit work involving persecuted minorities and refugees; research work on site in South Sudan and research work for non-profit organizations in the United States.

Each of experiences involved important ethical considerations ranging from protecting the identity of at risk individuals to a detailed legal understanding of tax evasion. Perhaps more importantly it has exposed me to very different ways of considering ethical responsibilities.

In particular in my last job I was forced to navigate the regrettable experience of the organization’s director, my direct supervisor, being found guilty of sexual misconduct. As unpleasant as this experience was, I have been able to take from it some understanding of how such serious incidents can play out in practice.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve the graduate community and am grateful for your consideration of me as a candidate.