


Harvard president will submit dissertation edits after plagiarism allegations

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Gabriella Borter



Harvard University President Claudine Gay testifies before a House Education and The Workforce Committee hearing titled "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism" on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., December 5, 2023. REUTERS/Ken Cedeno/File Photo [Acquire Licensing Rights](#) 

Dec 21 (Reuters) - Harvard University's president was planning to submit three corrections to her 1997 dissertation after a committee investigating plagiarism allegations against her found that she had made citation errors, a university spokesperson said.

Claudine Gay, who was inaugurated as Harvard's president in September, has already submitted corrections to two published articles in recent weeks that were the focus of a review by the Harvard Corporation, the university's governing board.

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Questions about Gay's academic integrity have rocked her already tumultuous first semester as the university's first Black president, as she faced a pressure campaign to resign over her congressional testimony about antisemitism on campus earlier this month.

The plagiarism allegations against Gay were brought to the attention of the Harvard Corporation on Oct. 24 through a media request by the New York Post newspaper, the university spokesperson said.

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Investigators, including a subcommittee of the 11-member Corporation and a panel of independent political scientists, found that Gay's work had "a few instances of inadequate citation" upon initial review but that her work fell short of research misconduct, the Corporation said in a statement on Dec. 12.

Subsequent allegations concerning Gay's 1997 Harvard Ph.D. dissertation led to an additional review, the university spokesperson said on Wednesday, in which investigators found "duplicative language without appropriate attribution."

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Gay will submit three citation corrections for her dissertation to the university's Office of the Provost, the spokesperson said.

Gay has faced intense pressure from Harvard donors and the Jewish community to resign after her testimony at a congressional hearing on Dec. 5, where she declined to say outright that calling for the genocide of Jews on Harvard's campus would violate the school's code of conduct.

Gay and the presidents of the University of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Institute of Technology were called to testify as protests over the Israel-Hamas war have roiled theirs and other U.S. colleges' campuses.

Gay later apologized for her remarks in an interview with the Harvard Crimson.

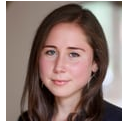
The University of Pennsylvania's president, Liz Magill, resigned on Dec. 9.

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Gabriella Borter is a reporter on the U.S. National Affairs team, covering cultural and political issues as well as breaking news. She has won two Front Page Awards from the Newswomen's Club of New York - in 2020 for her beat reporting on healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2019 for her spot story on the firing of the police officer who killed Eric Garner. The latter was also a Deadline Club Awards finalist. She holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and joined Reuters in 2017.

