



GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK

# GADE Historical Timeline: Events and Issues that Defined & Shaped Us

Elizabeth Lightfoot  
University of Minnesota  
GADE President





Virginia Commonwealth University, First class of School of Social Work and Public Health, 1917

**1915 – 1940**

# The Birth of Doctoral Education in Social Work

University of Chicago:  
School of Social Service  
Administration  
established

1915

1924

1934

*Bryn Mawr College:  
1st Social Work  
Doctoral Program*

*1919: First social work  
doctorates in Social  
Work awarded*



Grace & Edith Abbott  
Retrieved from; University of Chicago

*Ohio State University  
& Catholic University  
of America  
establishes Doctoral  
Programs*

*National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Funds Doctoral and Third Year Committee (D&TYC) to examine post-MSW Education*

1946

1948

1949

- 6 PhD Programs
- 1 DSW Program
- 6 Third Year Programs

D&TYC Findings:  
Difficulty in Funding PhD students not supported by NIMH (practice focused programs)– couldn't compete with other similar programs

**Critical GADE Issue:  
Research vs.  
Practice**



University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work faculty after presentation of special citation to Dr. Jessie Taft, 1955

# 1950 – 1960

## Defining Social Work Doctoral Education

*D&TYC → Committee on Advanced Curriculum (CoAC)*

CoAC Published set of "principles"

**Critical GADE Issue: Research vs. Practice**

**Critical GADE Issue: Autonomy vs. Assimilation**

1951

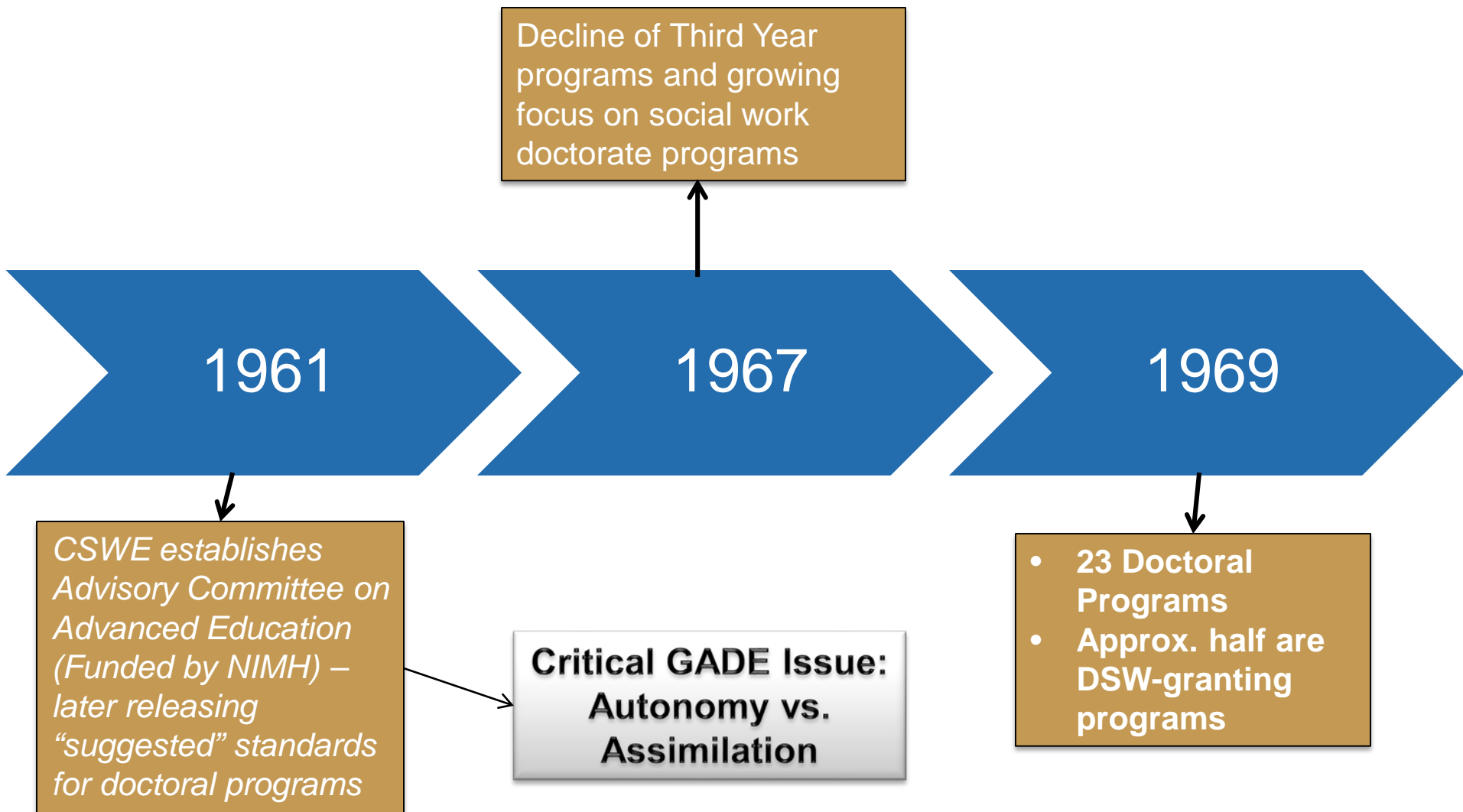
1953

1960s

**CoAC Members**

- Univ. of Pittsburgh
- Case Western Univ.
- Washington Univ. in St. Louis
- Columbia College
- Bryn Mawr College
- USC
- Univ. of MN
- Catholic University
- Univ. of Chicago
- Univ. of Pennsylvania







Social Work and Social Movements,  
1970s

1970-1980

# Unifying Doctoral Social Work Education: Becoming GADE



TFSQSWE Releases Report:

- Make BSW the professional terminal degree
- Develop Social Work Doctorate (SWD) focus on clinical practice, 3 yr program, replacing MSW, accredited by CSWE
- Offered in conjunction with DSWs and PhDs

**Critical GADE Issue:  
Research vs. Practice**



*CSWE creates task force on Structure and Quality in Social Work Education (TFSQSWE)*



Harold Richman, U of Chicago Dean invites 53 deans and doctoral director to develop official response against TFSQSWE Report

*TFSQSWE Report  
recommendations tabled →  
separate meetings continued among  
doctoral program directors,  
baccalaureate program directors and  
deans*

36 total Doctoral  
Programs

1976

1977

1979

After a successful annual meeting in 1977, doctoral program directors decided to organize and become GADE w/ Tom Holland of Case Western Reserve was the first Chair  
Among concerns during first steering committee meeting:

- Suspicion with CSWE due to the TFSQWSE Report
- Lack of support for PhD programs by CSWE

**Critical  
GADE Issue:  
Autonomy  
vs.  
Assimilation**

**G A D E**



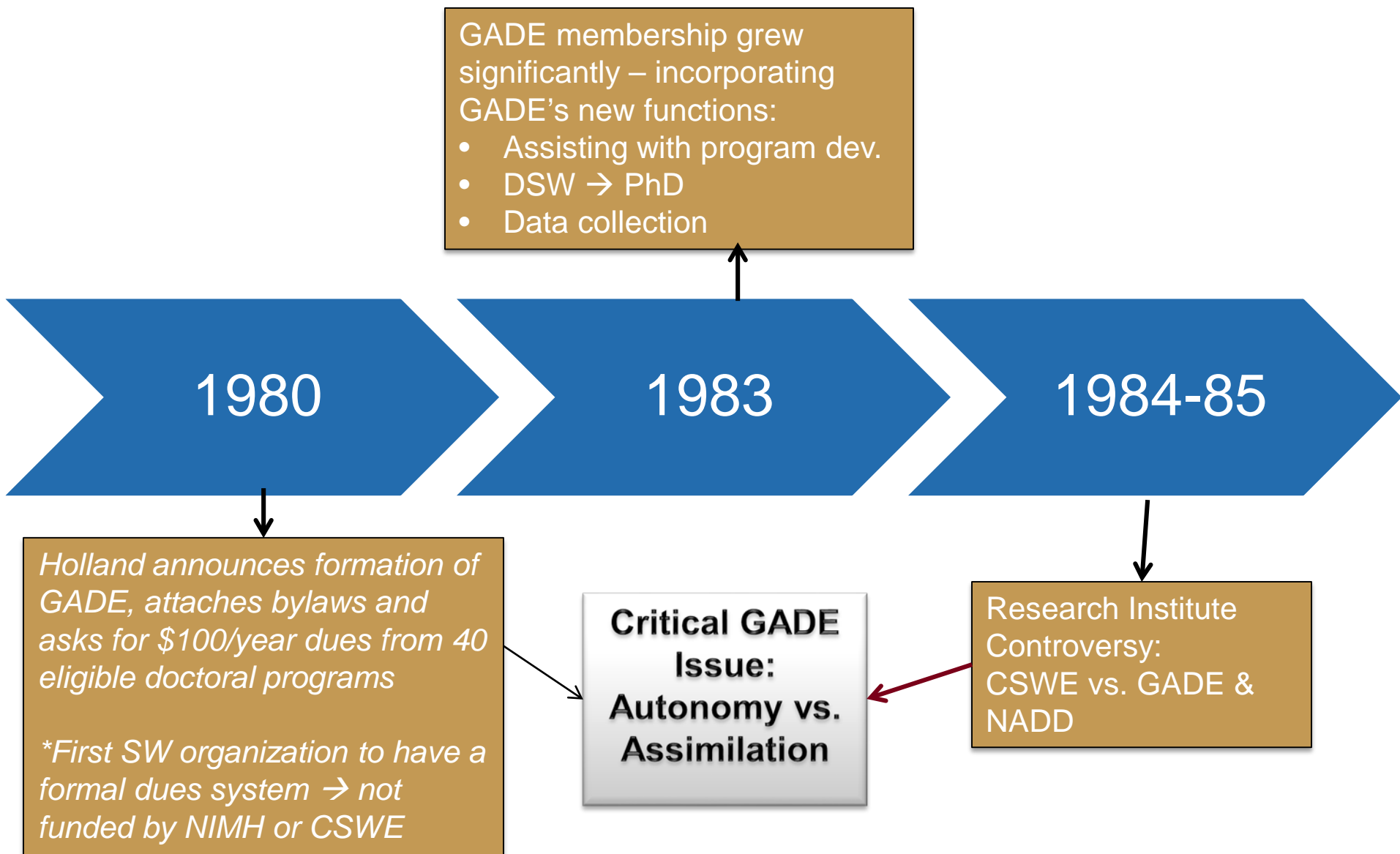
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GADE Annual Meeting Logos:  
1988, 1989, 1990

**1981-1990**

# GADE Discovers and Finds its Identity

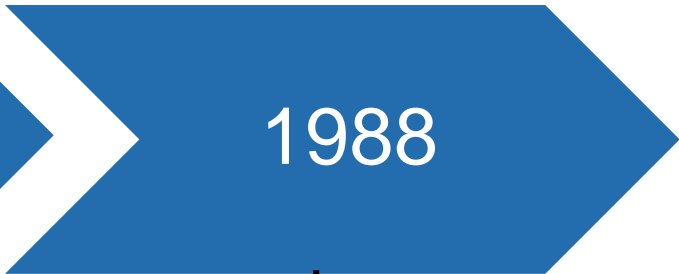


Internal vs. External  
Priorities  
Internal – decisions on how  
to set up annual meetings,  
GADE GUIDE  
External – Developing  
relationships w/ other orgs

**Critical GADE  
Issue:  
Resource  
Allocation –  
Internal vs.  
External Work**

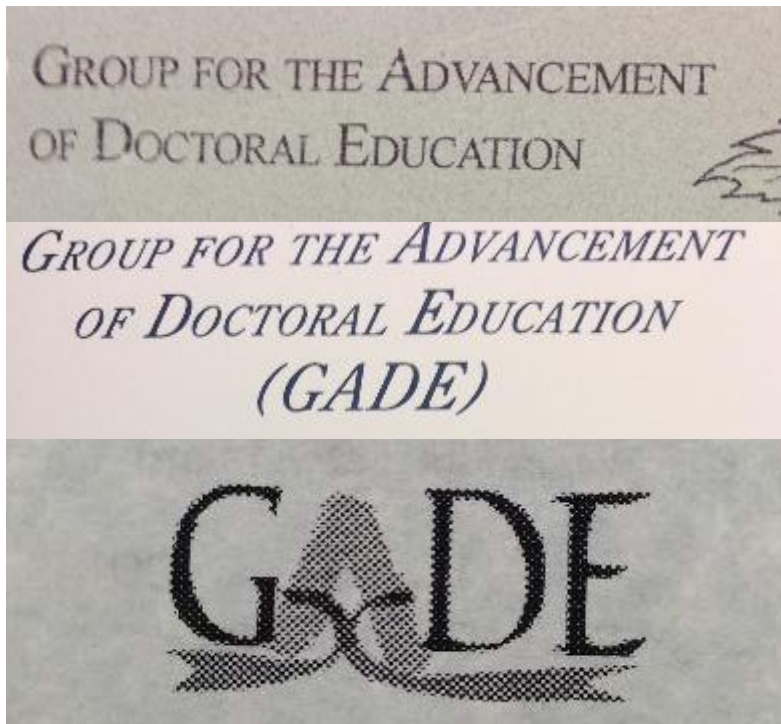
*Internal Reorganization  
Steering committee  
recommends:*

- Hire support staff
- Chair term to 3 years
- Increase dues



**Critical GADE  
Issue:  
Research vs.  
Practice**

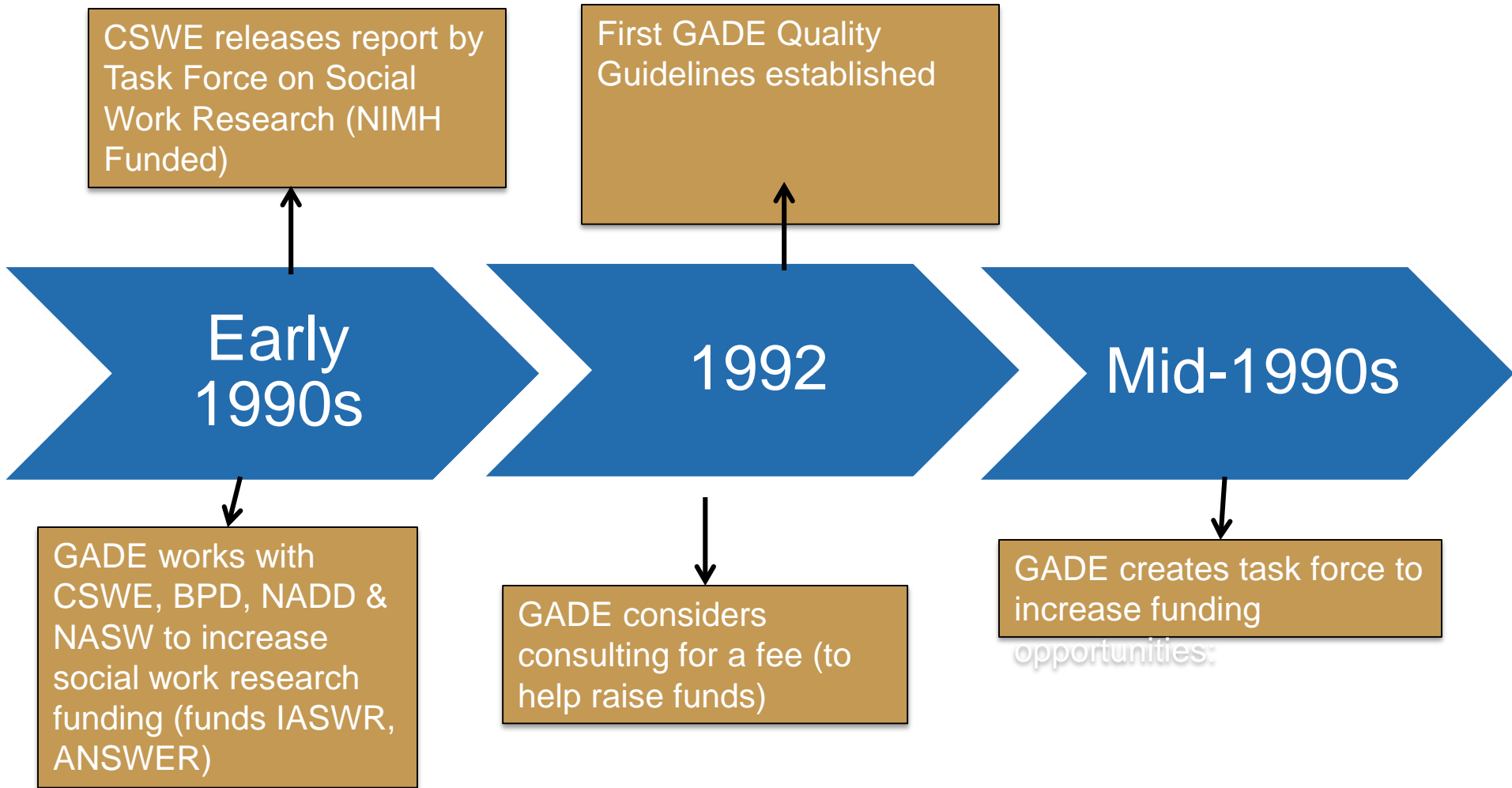
NASW vs. GADE –  
Union University Issue



GADE Annual Meeting Logos, 1994, 1995, 1999

**1991-2000**

# GADE: Consensus Building with Other Social Work Organizations



GADE becomes involved in helping develop BSW/MSW programs (as it relates to doctoral education)

**Critical GADE Issue:  
Resource Allocation –  
Internal vs. External  
Work**

Mid-1990s

Mid-1990s

Late-1990s

NIMH Sponsors GADE  
Task Force on  
Research Curricula



Student Recruitment Concerns:

- Admit students without MSW or 2 years post-MSW
- Increase diversity – supportive environment for diverse students

Late-1990s

Late-1990s

1999

Use of new Technologies: Listserv and website replace newsletter and GADE Guide

Membership:

- 63 doctoral programs (U.S.)
- 6 International programs
- 3 developing programs



University of Alabama, School of Social Work

**2001-2016**

# GADE: Leading in Doctoral Social Work Education (Nationally & Globally)

**School of Social Work**  
*Leadership for a Just and Caring Society*



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

# GADE: Global Leadership

- In 2000 - annual meeting in Univ. of Toronto (“Future of Doctoral Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Framework on International Perspectives”)
- Increase of international GADE members
- Interest in approaches of doctoral education in other parts of the world

# GADE: National Leadership

- Increased funding for doctoral students
- Updated GADE Quality Guidelines
  - 2003, 2013
- Increasing GADE presence
  - CSWE Doctoral Breakfast
  - SSWR Reception
  - Establishment of Awards

# Critical Issues for the future?

- Research vs. Practice
  - With changing nature of doctoral education
    - Research and/or Practice – and GADE’s role, if any, as CSWE begins accreditation
- Internal vs. External Focus
  - GADE’s focus on providing information/support for doctoral program directors, but also being “the” voice for doctoral education
- Autonomy vs. Independence
  - While collaboration is certainly increasing, need for GADE to maintain its independence