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When Research Doesn't Look Like Research: Faculty Development for Creative Artists

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Presenter Information

Mechele Leon, Tamara Falicov, Michelle Hayes, and Mary Anne Jordan

**Academic Chairpersons Conference 2015
Proposal**

1) Primary presenter information and curriculum vitae or short biographical sketch:

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A member of the University of Kansas faculty since 2002, Mechele Leon is a scholar, artist and educator. In addition to her service as Chairperson of the Department of Theatre, she served four years as Artistic Director of KU's University Theatre. Dr. Leon is author of an award-winning book, *Molière, the French Revolution, and the Theatrical Afterlife* (University of Iowa Press, 2009). She has directed numerous plays and musicals in academic and professional venues. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities faculty fellowship and a Bourse Chateaubriand from the French Government. Living in France from 1996-2001, she taught at the American University of Paris and the University of Paris.

2) Description of the session:

Faculty in the creative arts face unique challenges when it comes to research productivity. Writers, painters, dancers, filmmakers, directors, and actors must develop and articulate research programs that are coherent and make them legible to faculty and administrators at the institutional level and beyond. Development for faculty with creative specialties is not just a matter of concern for chairs of arts departments. As academic leaders frequently called upon to assess faculty research at the institutional level—for promotion and tenure, sabbatical, and institutional grants, etc.—all chairpersons can improve their service to the institution and the faculty community by understanding creative research productivity. This roundtable discussion will begin with a brief collaborative presentation by the four chairpersons of the School of the Arts at the University of Kansas, followed by discussion focused on case-study scenarios involving the foundations of research for creative faculty: program development, articulation, and assessment.