Case Study 3: See Attached

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During the spring semester, Leonard spent a great deal of time and effort on annotating the Fmr1 gene Dr. Cooper assigned him and earned a 98% course grade. Leonard saved up a significant sum of money throughout the last semester, so he decided to spend his summer on a road trip with his fraternity brothers traveling around the country. While hiking the Appalachian Trail, Leonard receives an email from Dr. Cooper reminding him of the authorship requirements he must fulfill and to “review and approve the attached manuscript by Friday two weeks from now.” When Leonard doesn’t see the attachment later that night, he assumes it’s because he doesn’t have enough cell service. Leonard then replies to Dr. Cooper that he had followed all the steps required to review the Fmr1 manuscript and that he approves its submission. However, Dr. Cooper had forgotten to attach the manuscript to the original email! So, it would have been impossible for Leonard to have reviewed it already.

1. What is the action or inaction that is the cause for concern?
2. Who are the stakeholders, how might they be affected, and what are the possible consequences?
3. Are there any laws, regulations, or unwritten disciplinary standards that may apply?
4. What actions would you recommend for the stakeholders in the short term and in the long term?